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An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

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U.S. Press Cited on 1991 Arms Control Prospects

PM0701101091 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 Jan 91 Second Edition p 4

[Commentary by correspondent V. Sukhoy: "Timetable for the Future; Prospects for Arms Reduction Talks"]

[Text] New York, 3 Jan—During the first days of the new year a series of documents about the prospects for U.S.-Soviet collaboration in the spheres of arms reduction and elimination has appeared in the American press. Military columnists think that the year 1991 may become an important landmark on the march forward of our two countries towards nuclear arms control and a safer world.

American military analysts consider that after the signing of the Strategic Offensive Weapons Treaty in February, the United States and USSR will begin talks in preparation for the Strategic Offensive Weapons Treaty-2. This agreement will not only reduce strategic offensive arms to minimal levels, but will also place a ban on sea-launched nuclear cruise missiles, as well as mobile land-based nuclear missiles with multiple warheads.

American military specialists predict that in the year ahead the United States and USSR may start a whole series of talks to conclude separate agreements on arms control. The talks may cover the following military spheres:

—comprehensive banning of nuclear weapon testing;
—banning of nuclear weapon deployment on warships;
—transformation of Europe into a nuclear-free zone;
—limitations on the placing of nuclear arms in space;
—considerable reduction of remaining conventional arms;
—elimination of low-trajectory missiles;
—limitations on trading in conventional arms and the transfer of ballistic missile production technology to third countries;
—a bilateral treaty to strengthen monitoring [kontrol] of the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons;
—attainment of accords on individual problems.

American military strategists consider that this will help the United States and the Soviet Union to approach in earnest the idea of global elimination of nuclear weapons.

The year 1991 may lay the foundations for the processes of unilateral reduction of strategic nuclear arsenals. The United States would be able to, say, reduce its nuclear potential to 1,000 units. The Soviet Union would be able to answer in kind, taking into account the specifics of nuclear parity. The United States would be able to halve its military budget—now equivalent to $300 billion. This would fully answer present U.S. defense requirements, as between 40 and 60 percent of the budget has always been put aside to parry "Soviet intervention" in West Europe.

As we see, there is no shortage of predictions and wishes. They are all based on the fact that the era of the cold war is now behind us, and a new epoch with a different climate has started, characterized by an absence of sharp "frosts" in the area of military confrontation.

U.S. Plans for New Nuclear Weapons Examined

PM0401164591 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 4 Jan 91 First Edition p 5

[Article by Major General V. Belous, candidate of technical sciences: "Neutron Salvo; United States Is Continuing To Develop New Types of Nuclear Weapons"]

[Text] In the pages of certain of our publications you encounter the opinion that the Soviet Union is disarming too slowly and is "deceiving" the West, or so it is claimed, by violating the relevant accords that have been reached. Serious observers believe that this opinion is unfounded. Moreover, it is known that the West is continuing development of new, more modern types of weapons.

Even the ancients were aware that, given even the slightest carelessness or lack of self-control, weapons that are constantly at hand can easily be used. And when you consider that these are the most sophisticated type of nuclear weapons, which are fatal to all life on earth, you can imagine what would happen when, as a result of a small slip, the jinni escapes from the bottle.

It is dangerous even to possess such weapons. The chance factor can never be ruled out.

Despite the fact that peace-loving tendencies are gradually gaining strength and becoming the determining factors in the world policy of the leading world powers, there are people in the United States who simply refuse to abandon the thought of smashing the prevailing strategic parity with the USSR and winning a "victory before the first shot is fired." To this end existing weapons are being improved and new ones created.

Speaking of the danger of the creation of new types of weapons, W. Churchill warned: "The stone age may return on the shining wings of science."

The fact that this danger really exists is shown by the increase in appropriations in the United States for research and development to create the weapons of the future. Thus the share of appropriations spent on research and development increased from 23.4 percent in 1980-1984 to 34 percent in 1990.

Third-generation nuclear weapons occupy a priority place among military research programs. Third-generation nuclear weapons are special charges which, thanks to special design, redistribute the energy of the explosion in favor of one of the casualty-producing factors. Moreover, such a charge may focus the casualty-producing effect in a specific direction, considerably amplifying it.

According to this classification, the "cobalt bomb," on which work was carried out back in the fifties, can be regarded as the first model of such a weapon. The main feature of this weapon is that the nuclear charge is encased in natural cobalt. Under the influence of the radiation of the nuclear explosion the radioactive isotope cobalt-60 is formed, and this, landing as fallout together with the other products of the explosion, creates severe radioactive contamination that kills all living things. Thus it was a question of a radiological weapon intended for warfare on territories remote from the United States.

The first test of a neutron charge took place in Nevada in April 1963. The main casualty-producing factor is a flux of fast high-energy neutrons. These neutrons burst into living cells like projectiles, break molecular bonds, ionize the atoms, create highly chemically active free radicals, the disrupt vital processes. Very great hopes are pinned on neutron weapons as a means of combating enemy tanks.

An American military specialist describes war using neutron weapons as follows in the pages of the journal AMI: "...Retreating in heavy fighting, the U.S. 14th Mechanized Division is repelling enemy attacks. The tank battalions each have seven to eight tanks left. Losses in infantry companies exceed 30 percent. All army and corps reserves have already been committed to battle. No help can be expected from any quarter. According to aviation reconnaissance, two enemy tank divisions and two motorized rifle divisions are occupying attack assembly positions 15 km from the front line with the intention of delivering the main strike in the 14th Division's defense zone. Hundreds of armored vehicles, echeloned in depth, are already advancing along an eight-km front. Enemy artillery and air strikes are intensifying. The crisis is mounting....

"The barrels of 203.2-mm howitzers rise above gun positions. Fire! There are bright flashes about 150 meters above the enemy combat formations.... In a short while the enemy loses up to 30,000 men. The massive advance is finally disrupted. The 14th Division resolutely goes onto the offensive, driving back the enemy...."

Neutron charges may be used in the future ABM defenses being developed under the SDI program in order to combat the warheads of enemy missiles in flight. In the early eighties research began on creating third-generation weapons with increased electromagnetic impulse (EMI). To achieve this it is necessary to sharply increase the amplitude of the impulse and at the same time reduce its duration.

Electronic apparatus and control, communication, and power supply systems are especially sensitive to the effects of EMI. In the opinion of U.S. specialists, the detonation of a 10-megaton super-EMI charge at an altitude of 300-400 km above the geographical center of the United States—the state of Nebraska—could disrupt the work of radioelectronic equipment almost throughout the country for long enough to thwart retaliatory measures. The nuclear tests that are continuing across the ocean are aimed both at "refining" super-EMI and at researching methods of protecting the country's own weapons from it. These weapons are intended for the delivery of a first, "counterforce" strike and therefore are destabilizing in nature and force the other side to be warier about U.S. military preparations.

The concept of a "counterforce" strike which obsesses certain military theoreticians across the ocean has prompted them to create nuclear warheads specially intended to destroy specially hardened installations such as ICBM silos and command posts. To this end back in the late seventies the United States began research into creating warheads which can penetrate the ground to a depth of dozens of meters. When a nuclear charge is detonated at such a depth the bulk of the energy goes to form a crater and shock waves, which considerably increases its destructive effect. The detonation of a 200-kiloton penetrating warhead at a depth of 15-20 meters is equivalent in destructive effect to the surface detonation of a 600-kiloton MX warhead. After the signing of the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles the efforts of U.S. specialists switched to the creation of such warheads for ICBM's.

A few years before R. Reagan put forward his "Strategic Defense Initiative," the Livermore Laboratory (California) began work on creating antimissile "weapons of the 21st century"—nuclear-pumped X-ray lasers. These weapons are intended as the main means for destroying missiles during the boost phase of the flight path, before the warheads separate. They are to thwart a retaliatory attack by enemy missiles, and they have now been given an imposing name—"salvo-fire weapons."

Along with work on creating third-generation nuclear weapons the United States is also conducting basic research in the sphere of "trans-nuclear" combat systems. This includes the creation of weapons based on antimatter, antigravity, and various energy fields. The possibility of producing compact charges on the basis of certain isotopes of trans-plutonium elements is being examined.

All this shows that by no means everyone across the ocean is prepared to abandon the attributes of the "cold war" and the policy of confrontation and nuclear deterrence. But the future does not belong to them. The process of disarmament is increasingly gathering strength. The task of all peace-loving forces is to make it irreversible.

Foreign Ministry's Churkin Holds Briefing 4 Jan

Discusses Hopes for Gulf Talks

LD0401144291 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1252 GMT 4 Jan 91

[By diplomatic correspondents Mikhail Ivanov and Leonid Timofeyev from the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs press center]

[Text] Moscow, 4 Jan (TASS)— The Soviet Union consistently adheres to the course for a political settlement of the crisis in the Persian Gulf. This was said in a statement by the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs which was read by Vitaliy Churkin, chief of the Information Directorate of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at a briefing today.

In the past few days, the diplomat reminded, the Soviet side has made vigorous efforts to facilitate the establishment of direct dialogue between the United States and Iraq, without which it is difficult to conceive of the possibility of agreement on a peaceful settlement.

In particular, talks with President Saddam Husayn of Iraq and other Iraqi leaders held in Baghdad at the end of December last year by Igor Belousov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, head of an interdepartmental working group set up on the instructions of the USSR president, were devoted in substantial measure to this task.

On a more specific level, continued Vitaliy Churkin, this topic was discussed on the instructions of the USSR minister of foreign affairs with Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, by Kolotusha, chief of the directorate for the countries of the Near East and North Africa of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who was in Baghdad as part of the delegation headed by I. Belousov. Contact was simultaneously being maintained with U.S. representatives. Exchanges of views were also held with other countries, in particular Arab ones, and with the chairman of the Nonaligned Movement. Consultations were held in Moscow on 3 December with Abu Mazin, member of the Palestine Liberation Organization Executive Committee and cochairman of the Soviet-Palestinian Committee on the Near East.

Vitaliy Churkin noted further that the new initiative by U.S. President George Bush, who has proposed a meeting betwen Secretary of State James Baker and the Iraqi foreign minister in Switzerland either on 7, 8, or 9 January, has been received with satisfaction in the USSR.

"We hope," the diplomat said, "that the proposal by U.S. President will find a positive response among the Iraqi leadership. Hopes for a settlement of the acute crisis situation in the Persian Gulf zone on the basis of the UN Security Council's appropriate resolutions are naturally being attached to the possibility of the United States and Iraq holding a direct conversation." "The goodwill pause" Vitaliy Churkin said, "must end in a victory for common sense and bring confidence in the restoration of justice and stability in the Persian Gulf zone."

On Chemical Arms Talks With U.S.

LD0401160291 Moscow TASS in English 1531 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow January 4 TASS—"On December 28, 1990, the USSR and the United States agreed to extend the term for drafting documents to an agreement on the destruction and non-production of chemical weapons and on measures for the advancement of a multilateral convention to ban chemical weapons, signed by the Soviet and U.S. Presidents in Washington on June 1, 1990," a Soviet spokesman said at a briefing here today.

Vitaliy Churkin, head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry Information Directorate, recalled that under the provisions of the agreement, both sides had to prepare, by not later than six months after its signing, detailed provisions on bilateral verification, including trial challenge inspections, and a protocol on inspections not later than December 31, 1990.

Churkin said that to complete these documents within the fixed term, the Soviet and U.S. delegations conducted three intensive rounds of talks this year. He stressed that the talks were constructive and both sides exerted maximum efforts to meet the aforementioned terms. However, several issues of an objective nature and calling for additional study emerged during the work.

Churkin added that the USSR and the United States agreed to resume talks on these issues in Geneva on January 15, 1991.

Reviews Shevardnadze Activities

LD0401141291 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1259 GMT 4 Jan 91

[By diplomatic correspondents Mikhail Ivanov and Leonid Timofeyev from the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs press center]

[Text] Moscow, 4 Jan (TASS)—Eduard Shevardnadze, USSR minister of foreign affairs, is receiving Jack Matlock, U.S. ambassador in the USSR, this afternoon. This was announced at a briefing by Vitaliy Churkin, head of the Information Directorate of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The diplomat also noted that the head of the Soviet foreign political department has devoted the last few days mainly to work on the ministry's report, which is expected to be submitted to the USSR Supreme Soviet next week. This document, numbering 350 pages, is

entitled: "USSR Foreign Political and Diplomatic Activity." It covers the period from November 1989 to December 1990.

Touching upon Eduard Shevardnadze's meeting yesterday with USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev, the diplomat stressed that over the last few days, as before, they have maintained continuous working contacts, including telephone contacts.

Answering a question from journalists about whether Eduard Shevardnadze will take part in the Soviet-American summit next month, Vitaliy Churkin suggested that one should wait for the Supreme Soviet session, and for the results of the forming of the cabinet.

On Arms Supplies to Central America

LD0401195491 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1540 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] An official Pentagon spokesman has confirmed reports in the U.S. mass media that the crew of an American transport helicopter, flying from the capital of El Salvador to an American military base in Honduras, has been killed in El Salvador. Salvadoran insurgents belonging to the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front claim that they used a Soviet missile to bring the helicopter down. A briefing on topical questions of international policy was held today at the press center of the Soviet Foreign Ministry. Addressing Soviet and foreign journalists, Churkin, the head of the information directorate of the USSR Foreign Ministry, said, in particular:

[Begin Churkin recording] Central America: According to a communique published in Managua the other day by the command of the Sandinist People's Army, an investigation carried out by it at the end of last year revealed that a consignment of launchers and surface-to-air missiles, supplied to Nicaragua by the Soviet Union in accordance with agreements that were in force at that time, had been stolen from stores belonging to the Nicaraguan Armed Forces and smuggled to Salvadoran insurgents. The official accords covering this matter unequivocally stipulate that no Soviet weapons of any kind should be passed on to third parties. Therefore, in taking note of the aforementioned statement by the command of the Sandinist People's Army, we express hope that the Nicaraguan authorities will take all steps necessary to prevent a repetition of such incidents, which are absolutely unacceptable to us.

At the same time, we consider it necessary to stress once again that we continue to advocate a complete end to supplies of arms to the countries of Central America. As you know, the Soviet Union suspended arms deliveries to Nicaragua and other countries of the region in 1989. Since then it has not been providing such supplies and it is not doing so now. We think that the adoption of similar measures by other states, above all the United States, would be a substantial contribution to the earliest possible settlement of the situation in El Salvador, and in Central America as a whole. [end recording]

Describes Economic Talks With Cuba

LD0401163591 Moscow TASS in English 1540 GMT 4 Jan 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondents Mikhail Ivanov and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow January 4 TASS—Soviet-Cuban negotiations on bilateral trade and economic cooperation in 1991 and in the longer term ended in Moscow on December 29, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Vitaliy Churkin said at a briefing here today.

Churkin said that as a result of a great amount of work, the sides signed a package of intergovernmental and interdepartmental agreements defining the parameters of the transition to a new mechanism of mutual trade and economic relations.

Speaking about the thrust of these documents, Churkin stressed that they preserve the shaped structure and scope of bilateral cooperation, "certainly, mindful of the existing realities and the serious nature of the situation both in the USSR and in Cuba." Churkin said the partners would switch to settlements and payments in freely convertible currency and trade at current prices on commodities and services on the main world markets from January 1, 1991.

"In view of this, the lowering of some trade indicators is expected. However, this will happen not due to a reduction in the volume of trade turnover but as a result of the change in pricing policy," Churkin added.

"The USSR and Cuba will stimulate the development of new forms of cooperation, including direct links, joint ventures, specialisation, and co-production," Churkin went on.

"The sides agreed on the list of the reciprocal supplies of goods in 1991, which will be a transition period in the process to switch bilateral trade and economic relations to the new mechanism," Churkin said.

Churkin stressed that despite the complex nature of many issues, which had to be tackled during the talks, the sides worked in the spirit of mutual understanding of the importance of trade and economic links to the two countries' economies and deep awareness of the vital need for reforms.

Views Trade Ties With Bulgaria

LD0401224391 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1309 GMT 4 Jan 91

[By diplomatic correspondents Mikhail Ivanov and Leonid Timofeyev from the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs press center]

[Text] Moscow, 4 Jan (TASS)—The volume of commodity trade between the USSR and the Republic of Bulgaria, which is regulated at the state level, will amount to $4.6 billion this year. This was reported today by Vitaliy Churkin, head of the Directorate of Information of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at a briefing.

Commenting on the results of the visit to Moscow on 28 December by Aleksandr Tomov, chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers, and Antanas Paparizov, Bulgarian minister for foreign economic relations, the diplomat noted that the documents signed as a result of the talks envisage the supply to Bulgaria of 5 million tonnes of Soviet oil and of other types of energy. In return, Bulgaria will supply medicine, foodstuffs, and other goods. The commodity trade between the countries will also be conducted within the framework of the independent foreign trade activities of Soviet republics and enterprises. In particular, the chance for Bulgaria to purchase through these channels an additional 1.5 million tonnes of oil is not ruled out.

According to Churkin, "The documents signed create the basis for maintaining the full-blooded trade and economic ties between the USSR and the Republic of Bulgaria." The representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs added that measures are being studied in the USSR which could be undertaken in relation to the acute shortage of oil products in Bulgaria. Though, underlined Vitaliy Churkin, the issue is a most difficult one since the same problems have arisen also in other countries and the output of oil in the USSR is falling due to worn out equipment.

TASS Rounds Up News Briefing

LD0401183291 Moscow TASS in English 1754 GMT 4 Jan 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondents Mikhail Ivanov and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow January 4 TASS—"The Soviet Union is consistently purusing a peace settlement in the Gulf crisis," reads a statement by the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

The statement was read out by Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Vitaliy Churkin at a briefing here today.

The Soviet Union is satisfied with U.S. President George Bush's new initiative to hold a meeting between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and the Iraqi foreign minister in Switzerland on January 7, 8 or 9, the Soviet spokesman said.

"We hope that the U.S. President's proposal will receive a positive response from the Iraqi leadership," Churkin said.

The Soviet Union and the United States agreed on December 28, 1990 to extend the time for drawing up documents for the agreement on the annihilation and non-production of chemical weapons. They agreed to resume talks on these issues in Geneva on January 15, 1991, he said.

Churkin said that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze was to meet U.S. Ambassador to the USSR Jack Matlock later today.

The spokesman noted that Shevardnadze devoted the last few days to compiling a report on the Ministry's work, which will be submitted to parliament next week.

Answering a question about the expulsion of Soviet diplomats from Sweden, Churkin said: 'As you probably know, we sent the Swedish side a strong protest in this connection and stressed that the accusations were absolutely groundless. The activities of our diplomatics were perfectly in compliance with their diplomatic status".

"We believe that such actions actions by Sweden run counter with friendly relations between the Soviet Union and Sweden," he said.

On U.S. prisoners of war in Korea who allegedly could end up in the Soviet Union, Churkin said that "The Soviet side does not have any information on the issue and has not received such from the United States".

Churkin praised a proposal by the Pakistani foreign minister to hold consultations with the Soviet Union on a settlement in Afghanistan. He urged a halt to interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan from Pakistani territory.

He commented on the communique released by the command of the Sandinista People's Army on acts of embezzlement from depots of the Nicaraguan Armed Forces and transportation to Salvadorean rebels of ground-to-air missiles previously delivered to Nicaragua by the USSR.

"We hope the Nicaraguan leadership will take all necessary measures to preclude such acts in future, which are absolutely unacceptable to us," Churkin said.

He recalled that the Soviet Union calls for stopping all arms deliveries to Central American countries.

Klaus Neldner, vice president of the international charity fund Care International, told the briefing about the fund's plans to establish contacts with Soviet charity organisations. He said that the fund will focus on rendering food aid to the Soviet Union and developing various health-building programmes for Soviet children.

Foreign Ministry Welcomes Iraqi-U.S. Talks

LD0501160191 Moscow TASS in English 1602 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow January 5 TASS—A TASS correspondent asked Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Vitaliy Churkin to comment on the agreement reached by the

United States and Iraq on the date of the meeting in Geneva between the U.S. secretary of state and the Iraqi foreign minister.

According to Churkin, the Iraqi side expressed a positive attitude to the initiative of President Bush on organising a meeting between James Baker and Tariq 'Aziz. Agreement was reached to hold the meeting on January 9.

A statement of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, issued on January 4, stressed that "people hope that a direct American-Iraqi dialogue will help settle the acute crisis in the Gulf zone on the basis of corresponding resolutions of the U.N. Security council. The pause of good will should end with the victory of common sense and should bring confidence in the restoration of justice and stability in the Gulf zone".

The agreement on the direct American-Iraqi dialogue is a matter of special satisfaction for the Soviet Union, because the Soviet side actively promoted it.

CEMA Executive Discusses Successor Organization

LD0401190591 Moscow TASS in English 1838 GMT 4 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Georgiy Mikhailin]

[Text] Moscow January 4 TASS—The draft rules of the organisation, which is to succeed the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA), as well as the concept of its activities will be discussed by the 134th session of the CMEA Executive Committee, that opened here today.

For two days deputy prime ministers and ministers from nine CMEA member states will discuss these and other important problems, specifically, CMEA relations with international organisations, its provisional budget for the transitional period and general terms of reciprocal deliveries in the current year.

According to the draft rules of the CMEA successor, which will be called most probably the Organisation for International Economic Cooperation (OIEC), this intergovernmental organisation will promote the expansion of economic relations among its member countries and the development of mutually advantageous cooperation on a market basis. One of the positive trends of the new organisation is its desire to promote the integration of their national economies into European and other regional economic structures. Perhaps, this is the reason why OIEC will be open to all countries sharing its objectives and principles and willing to assume the commitments recorded in its rules.

Vietnam and Mongolia suggest that the characteristic features of less developed member states should be taken into account in the cooperation process. Cuba insists that an article about OIEC's allegiance to standards and practices of the United Nations and other international organisations in relations with developing countries should be included in the rules.

They have not yet agreed on the formation of the budget. Most members of the nine maintain that the OIEC steering body — the government representatives committee—should define each country's share of the budget, while Czechoslovakia insists that the shares of all countries should be equal.

In spite of the differences, representatives of CMEA member countries hope to reach agreement on all these problems by the beginning of the final, and consequently historic, 46th session of the CMEA council. It is planned for late in February.

Other differences emerged in this session. Vietnam, Cuba, Mongolia and Romania suggested that Albania, which withdrew from CMEA in 1961, be invited to attend the session as an observer. Hungary, Poland and Czechoslovakia believe that it would be premature. They feel that Albania should display the initiative itself, and that it would be reasonable to wait for further developments in that country. Bulgaria suggested awaiting results of an analysis of the situation in Albania. A Soviet representative did not voice his opinion on this problem.

At the same time, the nine were unanimous in their intention to invite Yugoslavia, by tradition, and Germany, as the successor of the former GDR, for moral, political and economic reasons. It was suggested on the initiative of the Soviet Union that EC representatives be invited to attend the session. However, this issue remains open.

All controversial issues can be clarified on Saturday, when the participants sign agreement documents.

CEMA Participants Listed

LD0501201991 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1045 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow, 5 Jan: The 134th session of the CEMA Executive Committee was held in Moscow from 4 to 5 January 1991.

Taking part in the session were the representatives of: the Republic of Bulgaria - A. Paparizov; the Hungarian Republic - B. Kadar; the Socialist Republic of Vietnam - (Mai Ki); the Republic of Cuba - E. Melendez Bachs; the Mongolian People's Republic - C. Purevdorj; the Republic of Poland - A. (Lubbe); Romania - T. Postolache; the USSR - S. Sitaryan; the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic - V. Dlouhy.

In accordance with the agreement between CEMA and the SFRY Government, B. Jovanovic, representative of the SFRY, took part in the work of the Executive Committee.

Also taking part in the session was V. Sychev, secretary of the council.

The session was chaired by B. Kadar, representative of the Hungarian Republic.

The Executive Committee agreed with proposals for the radical restructuring of the system of economic cooperation among CEMA member countries, including a draft charter for a new organization of international economic cooperation, prepared by a special commisison set up by decision of the CEMA session (45th meeting). The proposals are to be put to the 46th meeting of the CEMA session.

The issue of the force of normative acts and programs previously adopted by the Executive Committee, committees and standing commissions of CEMA, was also examined. A list of the aforementioned documents, which are subject to review in accordance with the radical retructuring of all-round cooperation among the member countries of the CEMA, was approved. It was decided that all CEMA normative acts and programs not included on this list lose their force.

The Executive Committee met in an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

CEMA Executive Session Ends 5 Jan

LD0501110191 Moscow TASS in English 1039 GMT 5 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Georg Mikhailin]

[Text] Moscow, January 5 TASS—The Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) has exhausted itself, but member-countries should not break traditional economic links, participants in the 134th session of the CMEA executive agreed, calling for a new organisation to coordinate their economic cooperation.

The CMEA executive ended its session in Moscow today.

The meeting discussed reforms of economic cooperation between nine CMEA member-countries, suggested by a special commission.

The sides agreed on draft documents for the last 46th meeting of the CMEA session in Budapest, scheduled for the end of February, chairman of the executive, Hungarian International Economic Relations Minister Bela Kadar said.

The CMEA session will pass the charter of the Organisation for International Economic Cooperation, the concept of its activities, a convention on its legal capacity and immunities and other documents and will endorse a CMEA budget for the transition period.

CMEA member-countries decided to invite Yugoslavia and Germany for the Budapest session. The meeting has yet to decide on whether to invite observers from the European Community and Albania.

Hungary, USSR Discuss Debt Payment

LD0501221691 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1830 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Interview with Bela Kadar, Hungarian minister of international relations and chairman of the CEMA Executive Committee, by unidentified correspondent in Budapest; date not given—recorded; first paragraph is report by Mihaly Hardi from Moscow]

[Excerpts] [Hardi] [passage omitted] Last night the discussions between Bela Kadar and [USSR Minister of Foreign Economic Relations] Konstantin Katushev ended without any particular progress in the matter of the deadline for clearing last year's Soviet trade deficit. Our delegation again decisively rejected the idea of our crediting the Soviet debt with the value of the Soviet military installations being vacated in our country.

[Announcer] As you heard, the minister of international economic relations made use of his stay in Moscow to conduct discussions with his Soviet counterparts on the two countries' economic relations. After his return home, Bela Kadar gave a statement to this program.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] It is common knowledge that Hungary has a claim of approximately 1.3 billion dollars vis-a-vis the Soviet Union. There are disputes not so much about the amount, but about the repayment schedule. Have the positions come closer together?

[Kadar] The Soviet side has come forward with the demand that it wants five years to clear it. The Hungarian position, of course, is that if possible it should be cleared this year, since the biggest balance of payments difficulties are expected this year. I think that this was another phase of the discussions that was useful. Civil law agreements have already come into being between enterprises on the issue of $560 million in Hungarian exports and about $1.1 billion in Hungarian imports. Nearly 200 million [currency not specified] for Ikarus buses and spare parts. Raba [wagon and machine factory] has a very significant civil law agreement, nearly 150 million [currency not given], and civil law agreements have already been concluded on medicine exports amounting to some $170 million. [end recording]

'Top Priority' Program on Foreign Policy Changes

LD0501142891 Moscow World Service in English 2300 GMT 4 Jan 91

["Top Priority" program, presented by Irini Tkachenko, with Sergey Plekhanov and Andrey Kortunov of the USSR Academy of Sciences Institute of the USA and Canada]

[Text] Welcome to "Top Priority." I'm Trina Tkachenko and, together with Sergey Plekhanov and Andrey Kortunov from the Institute for U.S. and Canadian Studies here in Moscow, we look at the Soviet foreign policy that, pending the resignation of Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, may or may not be changed despite

official reassurances from Moscow, which have already been called into doubt not only by some Western observers but also by the Soviet press, by Soviet national newspapers. And all this on the threshold of several critical developments—15 January in the Persian Gulf or 11 February, scheduled as the beginning of Soviet-American summit in Moscow.

Is the Soviet foreign policy facing any immediate changes? What is the likelihood of these changes, Sergey?

[Plekhanov] I don't think it is facing any immediate changes. I think the foreign policy of the Soviet Union has been very successful in the past several years. Of course there are people in the Soviet Union who do not view things like letting East Europeans do whatever they want and determine their own destiny as a success. There are people who are still thinking in imperial terms, in terms of control over territory, the numbers of allies, but they are a minority and I think the momentum, the good momentum, that the Soviet foreign policy has acquired in the past several years is going to carry it forward. Of course it's hard to foresee every turn in world events, especially since we are facing a major international crisis in the Gulf. Everybody is keeping his fingers crossed. So, barring any major turns, major changes in the way international politics is organized as a result of the Gulf crisis, I don't foresee any changes in Soviet foreign policy, any serious changes.

[Tkachenko] Andrey, do you see the momentum of Soviet foreign policy's success maintained, given that in the West the foreign policy of a country is often association with a person rather than an administration? Will not the very fact of someone other than Eduard Shevardnadze occupying this office strain our relations with America, with some of the West European countries?

[Kortunov] Well, my feeling is that the basic question we are facing right now is the question whether Gorbachev is in a position to keep control over foreign and defense policies in this country. And it is still an open question because his powers were challenged in many other spheres, specifically in economics, in domestic politics, and it is hard to believe that our nationalistic-minded leaders in the republics will resist the temptation to challenge him in the main on the foreign policy, because if we are speaking about sovereignty, of course without foreign policy dimension, the sovereignty of republics will be somewhat crippled. And here I think the crucial issue is whether the country could still have a kind of integrated foreign policy strategy, and in order to answer this question I think it is very important that Gorbachev helps to find a new self-identity for the Soviet Union, to find new foreign policy agenda, which he hasn't done yet from my point of view.

[Tkachenko] Let me take you up on that. In other words, your question can be formulated in the following words: it all depends on how much of a team Mikhail Gorbachevf has at the moment in shaping this foreign policy. By the way, Yegor Ligachev, a formerly powerful member of the Politburo [word indistinct] resigned, although he's still very active in political life, claimed the other day in an interview with a national newspaper that the resignation of Eduard Shevardnadze doesn't mean anything, that he may be replaced by a lot of people, there are a lot of talented people around. At the same time a few radical-minded deputies of the national parliament, of Congress of People's Deputies, have stated, in unison practically, that Mr. Gorbachev has been left entirely alone, on his own, with the resignation of Eduard Shevardnadze; that he doesn't have a team. Which of the two opinions is closer to the truth, do you think?

[Kortunov] Well, you know I think that the personal touch of Eduard Shevardnadze was very important in our foreign policy and, after all, Eduard Shevardnadze was one of the most consistent supporters of Gorbachev. And no matter what replacement can be found by Gorbachev for the post of foreign minister, I think that there'll be concerns both in the country and in the outside world about the consistency of the Soviet foreign policy, especially if you look at possible alternatives that have been discussed, rumored, in Moscow right now. For example, people like Dzasokhov or Primakov, and we know quite well that these two men were engaged primarily in our foreign policy vis-a-vis the third world and of course I think if one of them is nominated, their record and possible changes in foreign policy rhetoric will raise certain questions in the West.

[Plekhanov] (?Let) me say this: The Soviet foreign policy over the past six years has been every bit the Gorbachev foreign policy. Mikhail Gorbachev has taken an unusually active role, unusual for a chief executive of any country, in developing a new foreign policy orientation for this country. He was involved in the most minute details of negotiations—the record is there, foreign leaders know that. Shevardnadze has been very important, but one should not identify the new Soviet foreign policy with just the name of Shevardnadze. He's been, he's played a major role in helping draft the foreign policy but I think—I'm convinced—the key player in the foreign policy game has been the president himself.

At the same time, let's face it, we have passed through a certain stage in Soviet foreign policy: transition from the old foreign policy to the adaptation to the new realities. The Soviet Union has shown that it views its security in new terms, that it wants to deideologize its foreign policy, that it wants to come to terms with the West, that it wants to concentrate more on its domestic affairs. Now that we have made that transition we must come to grips with this new world that we are facing and in this I share Andrey's view that it is about time we developed a new view of what the Soviet Union's role in world affairs is. The sooner we do that the more guarantee that the gains of the new foreign policy will not be lost.

[Tkachenko] Soviet foreign policy is these days increasingly coming under close public scrutiny, if not open criticism, in the Soviet media, and on the other hand the

constituent Soviet republics in their drive for independence are demanding a bigger say in shaping of Soviet foreign policy. Do you see it as a positive trend or rather as a danger to this comprehensive and consistent foreign policy line. Andrey?

[Kortunov] I think that basically it will depend on the position taken by people here in Moscow. If they are ready to strike a deal with the republics, if they are ready to yield some less important foreign policy issues to the republics, for example consular services or deals with the emigration communities or especially foreign economic policies, then I think this new activism of the republics will be productive for the whole country because I do believe that in case, for example, of East European nations, it will be easier for republics to deal with these nations because they have no such, you know, imperial trail of different offenses and misunderstandings, and probably this new voice of the republic will help to harmonize our relationship with the neighboring countries. But in case the central power is reluctant to yield in some marginal, in some less important spheres of foreign policy to the republics, in case that the republics feel that they are not treated fairly by the center in this particular sphere, I think that we can see a lot of very serious contradictions as far as the foreign and defense policies are concerned. So I think it is probably the time when any new minister who is to be nominated should reconsider his personnel policies, his strategies and his basic attitudes towards the republican ministries of foreign affairs. That's very important from my point of view.

[Plekhanov] I think it's not just a question of divisional power between the republics and the center. It also involves the role of the public, the role of the legislative bodies in drafting an oversight of the foreign policy. Traditionally the Soviet foreign policy, and the same is true of many other countries, has been the most elitist and the least transparent area of public policy. In the United States, during the times of the imperial presidency, at the height of the cold war, glasnost was not characteristic of foreign policy making, too. After Vietnam they have made some changes and those changes have helped the United States, I think, and we, after Afghanistan and in the age of glasnost, we have started to open up foreign policy making. And yet I recall a lot of complaints in the past few years that glasnost has been rather slow in coming to the sphere of foreign policy. Now we are witnessing the conservatives in the Soviet Union actually championing glasnost in this area, criticizing Shevardnadze and the Soviet foreign policy in general for doing things in the foreign policy areas which were not, as they say, consulted about with the legislature, with every group that is active in the foreign policy area. So, while the motives may be questionable from my viewpoint, because I don't share those criticisms, I think the very fact that a debate on foreign policy is being forced on the national agenda here is a very important and positive undertaking. I am glad that people are asking questions why the Soviet Union should send its troops to the Gulf area. Let's discuss this issue openly. Let's talk about pros and cons. I don't see any harm done to a sound foreign policy if its pros and cons are debated openly in public.

[Tkachenko] Apart from the criticism which you have just mentioned from the conservatives leveled at Mr. Shevardnadze's foreign policy and Mr. Gorbachev's foreign policy over the last few years, perhaps the danger coming from the internal crisis of the country is even greater than the criticism from the conservatives, as Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze has clearly indicated in his first public interview since his resignation. In speaking with MOSCOW NEWS he said, and here I quote: If the process of democratization is stalled, the pursuit of the present foreign policy course will become impossible. The march of events may lead to repeats of the tragic developments in Tbilisi and Baku. What kind of new thinking shall we then speak about? Naturally, we'll try to develop our relations with all countries, but will our partners want it? Rather a lengthy quote, but (Richard Pike) in the same newspaper practically echoed Shevardnadze's words, saying it'll take just another Tbilisi for the West to turn away from the Soviet Union. How much of a threat is that Andrey?

[Kortunov] Well, I think that it's a little bit of exaggeration. I don't think that another Tbilisi will be enough to get rid of everything we reached during the last five years. I think that unfortunately something like Tbilisi is already looming on the horizon and I think that we'll have some spread of violence. I don't think that it will be violence provoked by the center, but I think to be realistic, one should take into account that some outbursts of violence are practically inevitable.

[Tkachenko] Do you mean violence in outlying republics or violence in central Russia [word indistinct]?

[Kortunov] Well, I think both. I think that what we're facing right now is a possibility of latent civil war which will spread not only to the republics but also to Russia itself. And I think that this is something that should be taken into account. But, of course, the ability of the government to have an (?activist) foreign policy and to preach the principles of new thinking will be highly limited. Even if our government is successful in curbing this violence it will have to change the rhetoric, the accents of its foreign policy which have to be much more realistic, much more pragmatic and much less messianic than it used to be, given these five years.

[Tkachenko] Sergey, do you think that it's at all fair to speak of any changes in the foreign policy and in the attitudes of the West towards the Soviet Union being dependent on some of the internal policy issues such as interethnic strife and things like that?

[Plekhanov] Well, obviously, events in the Soviet Union will have an impact on what the West thinks about the Soviet Union and its relations with the Soviet Union. And yet there is a growing realization in the West that a major destabilization in the Soviet Union poses a danger to international security. They would like a crisis in the

Soviet Union to be handled in such a way that the Soviet Union does not fall apart and that there is no threat of a major breakdown of law and order in the country. So in that sense I think the West is on the side of those people who are trying to restore some kind of stability in the Soviet Union, of course not at the expense of the achievements of democratic process and, in fact, I see such trends developing in Soviet politics.

Just a few days ago the new executive body, top executive body in the Soviet Union, the Federation Council, headed by the president of the Soviet Union and consisting of presidents of other, of all the republics of the Soviet Union, or most of the republics, has been able to reach an economic agreement between the center and the republics on what the budget is going to be, what the taxes, how taxes are going to be levied, what the price policy is going to be. It's a major, a major achievement which recognizes that power has flown out of the center toward the republics and that the republics are now sovereign in many ways, and the president can govern the country only with the consent of the republics. So I think we have actually, with the formation of new bodies of government and this kind of policy making, effective policy making, at least in some initial stages, we have moved away from the worst case scenarios that Andrey was talking about. So I think we are on the mend to some extent.

[Tkachenko] On a more practical level, and that will be the last question for today, are we going to see the new Soviet Foreign Minister appointed by 15th January? Andrey?

[Kortunov] I don't think that we'll have a new foreign minister nominated before 15th January. It will be a rather complex procedure because a new foreign minister has to be approved by the Supreme Soviet and I think that for the time being Gorbachev is pretty satisfied with having Shevardnadze as a lame duck foreign minister.

[Tkachenko] Would you share that?

[Plekhanov] There's no way of knowing what the timetable is. I would expect Shevardnadze to stay on [words indistinct] because there are important negotiations pending with the United States and it takes somebody who has been there for the past few years to carry on.

[Tkachenko] We'll take a closer look at some of the developments in the Persian Gulf and possible turns and twists in Soviet foreign policy in a week's time. Meanwhile, I am saying thank you very much to Sergey Plekhanov and Andrey Kortunov and saying goodbye to our listeners and invite you to join us next week at the same time.

Petrovskiy Assesses UN General Assembly Session

LD0501072291 Moscow TASS in English 0711 GMT 5 Jan 91

By TASS correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow January 5 TASS—The 45th U.N. General Assembly session became the first forum of the world community after the end of the "cold war", Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy said here on Friday. Addressing Soviet journalists at the Soviet Foreign Ministry press centre, he gave an assessment of the main results of the session, held during a "post-confrontation period of international relations". Petrovskiy believes that the session "considerably expanded the scope of cooperation of countries in the solution of problems facing civilisation and brought to light the key role of the United Nations in the creation of a new world order".

Petrovskiy believes that the positive background of the session was created, to a considerable extent, by the progress achieved in the Soviet-American dialogue, by democratic transformations in East European countries, the reunification of Germany and the all-European summit, which symbolised the end to the split of Europe.

Petrovskiy stressed that the Gulf crisis became a serious strength test for the emerging model of international relations. The U.N. reaction to the invasion proved convincingly the resolve of the U.N. member states to use the U.N. Charter and mechanisms for actions in an emergency situation, he stressed.

Petrovskiy pointed to the positive impact on the session of the development of Soviet-American cooperation at the United Nations. A joint statement made by Eduard Shevardnadze and James Baker on responsibility for peace and security in the changing world promoted the drawing of the United States into multilateral cooperation and the overcoming of old approaches by Americans.

The Soviet Union's cooperation with West European countries has deepened. Their stands turn to be identical more and more often on a wide range of political, economic, social and other issues, which are on the U.N. Agenda, Petrovskiy pointed out.

He believes that the session revealed the intention of countries to begin adapting U.N. mechanisms and structures to new realities on the basis of a critical analysis of past experience.

Disarmament problems featured prominently in the work of the session, Petrovskiy continued. Disarmament problems of the post-confrontation period are being brought to the limelight. The limitation of arms trade, the conversion of arms manufacturing, the establishment of openness in the military sphere, the reorientation of military potentials in accordance with the requirements of reasonable defence sufficiency and the impact of science and technology of world security are now evoking greater interest than before.

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Petrovskiy said that the problem of nuclear weapons tests became the subject of a serious discussion at the U.N. General Assembly session. The session firmly supported the reaching of

agreement on a universal nuclear weapons test ban as soon as possible. The overwhelming majority of countries maintain that the most important thing is to work out a solution to this problem by collective effort, using all possible ways, both bilateral and multilateral. U.N. Member states reiterated their determination to work for the early banning and elimination of chemical weapons.

According to Petrovskiy, the idea of combining all regional efforts, of their complementing each other, of creating regional security structures that would rule out hegemonistc ambitions and a possibility to resort to force for eliminating possible contradictions, that was put forward at the session by the Soviet Union, was in line with the feelings that dominated the session.

The session was marked by the activisation of efforts, aimed at eliminating regional hotbeds of tension by political means, he continued. Participants in the session managed to prevent a heated discussion of the Cambodian problem and achieve the approval of a consensus resolution on this problem.

The Soviet delegation was guided by the same considerations, when a consensus resolution on Afghanistan was being discussed. It is aimed at stepping up the quest for the solution to this problem on the basis of organising an inter-Afghan dialogue and holding free elections in Afghanistan for the purpose of creating a government on a broad basis. Consensus was also confirmed with regard to the main parametres of the settlement of situations in Central America and Western Sahara.

Petrovskiy believes that the discussion at the session of the package of problems dealing with the Middle East settlement took place in a special atmosphere, against the background of U.N. energetic actions for countering the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Iraq's attempt to link the settlement of the Palestinian problem with the Gulf settlement was not supported by the majority of U.N. member states. At the same time, the growth of world pressure on Iraq does not mean the curtailment of efforts, aimed at achieving a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and a just settlement of the Palestinian problem. Most countries maintain that this can be achieved by the convocation of an international conference on the Middle East, Petrovskiy believes.

United States & Canada

U.S. Statement on Riga Evokes 'Indignation'

LD0401202691 Moscow TASS in English 1958 GMT 4 Jan 90

[By TASS observer Dmitriy Yakubov]

[Text] Moscow January 4 TASS—It is common knowledge that the Soviet Union is living through a period of numerous domestic problems and difficulties. Mass media organs from various countries give detailed descriptions of them. Many observers unanimously believe that such difficulties are inevitable, when a totalitarian regime is being replaced by a democratic one. In addition, in a multinational country like the Soviet Union the situation is aggravated by the worsening of inter-ethnic relations.

It is clear to any impartial observer commenting on the situation in the USSR that both the federal government and governments of Union republics are doing much for preventing the turning of inter-ethnic contradictions into open clashes, for settling them on a mutually acceptable basis. This delicate work requires a careful and thoughtful approach.

Outside interference, even if brought about by the best of intentions, is especially dangerous for inter-ethnic relations in the USSR.

This is why a statement made by spokesman for the U.S. Department of State Richard Boucher on the latest developments in Riga evokes perplexity and even indignation. An objective assessment of these developments has not yet been made. Various parties give various assessments. One thing is clear: They were the result of a rather tense internal political situation in Latvia, including in the light of inter-ethnic contradictions in the republic. In this setting, the description of those developments as provocative is not only unjust. It stimulates the heightening of tension in Latvia and other Baltic republics.

A statement made by Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen about his intention to raise the question at a meeting of foreign ministers of the EEC countries on the feasibility of the continuation of economic assistance to the USSR in the light of the latest developments in Riga looks as an impermissible interference in the internal affairs of the Soviet Union. He also tried to put forward some conditions for the continuation of this assistance.

One should like to hope that European and American politicians, who are interested in the continuation of a peaceful development of Europe and the world in general, will realise that their interference in the internal political situation in the Soviet Union does not promote stability in country, in which all countries seem to be interested now.

Shevardnadze, Matlock Discuss Moscow Summit

LD0401180391 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1735 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow, 4 Jan (TASS)—Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze today received Jack Matlock, U.S. ambassador to the USSR. In the course of their conversation, mainly questions of the quickest possible completion of work on the strategic offensive weapons treaty in the context of preparations for the forthcoming Soviet-U.S. summit meeting in Moscow were touched upon.

Petrovskiy Comments on Baker-'Aziz Meeting

LD0501185491 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1730 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] U.S. President Bush has welcomed Iraq's agreement to a meeting in Switzerland between the heads of the two countries' foreign policy departments in an effort to resolve the crisis in the Persian Gulf by peaceful means. The meeting between Baker and 'Aziz will take place Wednesday in Geneva, a few days before 15 January, the deadline set by the United Nations Security Council for the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait, after which force can be used against Iraq. The accord on a meeting is being positively assessed in Moscow. Today, our diplomatic correspondent Vladimir Pasko met USSR Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Vladimir Petrovskiy.

[Begin recording] [Pasko] Vladimir Fedorovich, as far as I understand, although there is still cause for alarm, an encouraging factor has appeared in the development of the situation in the Persian Gulf region.

[Petrovskiy] You are right. We think this meeting will be a real fact in international political reality. I must say that we look on this meeting in the most positive way. The Soviet Union has contributed in every possible way toward such a meeting, and we very much hope that this meeting will yield positive results and will foster a peaceful, political settlement based on the Security Council resolutions. Taking advantage of this opportunity, I want to stress that Soviet diplomacy is, as before, actively involved in the quest for a political settlement. But this time we have been acting with new methods, methods of quiet diplomacy. We have been working actively both with Washington and with Baghdad, and with the Arab capitals. I must note that we also had a very useful and important dialogue with the non-aligned movement. We hope that the cumulative effect of all these actions will, after all, make it possible to reach the only sensible solution, a political solution to the problem, and that it will enable a peaceful outcome to be found to the Persian Gulf crisis.

[Pasko] thank you very much. [end recording]

U.S. Terms for 'Aziz Meeting 'Extremely Tough'

PM0501164591 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
5 Jan 91 Second Edition p 7

[Report by correspondent V. Gan: "'An Extra Mile for the Sake of Peace'"]

[Text] Washington, 4 Jan—The White House has decided to give another chance to attempts to find a diplomatic solution to the crisis in the Persian Gulf. President G. Bush declared today that Secretary of State Baker will be ready to arrive in Geneva Tuesday [8 January] to meet Iraqi Foreign Minister T. 'Aziz.

At today's meeting with the leaders of Congress, President G. Bush said that he wanted to "go an extra mile for the sake of peace," declaring that he is prepared to send Baker to take up contact with his Iraqi counterpart. Incidentally, it is not very clear what the heads of the foreign policy departments would be talking about, should Iraq accept Washington's proposal. The U.S. terms remain extremely tough. Addressing journalists, White House Press Secretary M. Fitzwater stated: "This proposal is based on the former conditions: No negotiation, no concessions, no attempts to save face, and no rewards for aggression."

In an interview with ABC-TV Network, Baker himself noted that the aim of his meeting in Geneva will be not only to convey this message, but also to leave Baghdad in no doubt about the commitment of the United States and all its partners in the anti-Iraq coalition to the full implementation of all UN Security Council resolutions. That means the demand that Iraq must quit Kuwait.

In short, this latest development in the confrontation does not mean any glimmer of hope. It is merely a result of the realization by the White House that there is no consensus either among the U.S. allies, or the U.S. Congress on the correctness of the military option.

Differences in U.S. Over Gulf Policy Noted

PM0501154791 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
5 Jan 91 Union Edition p 4

[Report by correspondent A. Blinov under general heading "Persian Gulf Between Peace and War": "Unusual Decision by the U.S. Congress"]

[Text] Washington—President G. Bush briefed Congressional leaders Thursday morning, just before the opening of the 102d Congress' session, on a new initiative by the U.S. Administration, which has proposed a meeting on neutral ground between the leaders of the U.S. and Iraqi diplomatic departments.

According to explanations given by U.S. lawmakers who attended the meeting, it served to compare the stances of the Administration and the Congress as regards the further course of action to be adopted in the Persian Gulf. According to G. Mitchell, leader of the Senate Democratic majority, substantial differences between the approaches of the Republican Administration and the Democratic majority came to light: While the White House is favoring the earliest possible recourse to force against Iraq, congressmen view it only as an extreme measure.

The differences between the approaches of the White House and the Capitol to the crisis in the Persian Gulf served as a pretext for an unusual decision in the practical procedure of the Congress. After the official opening of the session, legislative work is, as a rule, adjourned until the end of January when the President delivers his "State of the Union" message to Congress.

On this occasion the lawmakers were unwilling to organize a recess. There were calls for opening a debate on the course of actions in the Persian Gulf. A number of members of Congress, for example, advocated that a resolution be adopted curbing the Administration's ability to act indepedently in taking military action against Iraq.

Only the prompt appearance of Administration leaders on Capitol Hill, specificially of Secretary of State J. Baker and Secretary of Defense R. Cheney, together with active explanatory work on the part of Congress leaders, made it possible to put off the beginning of the debate. Congress members agreed to return to the said topic after the meeting between J. Baker and Tariq 'Aziz, provided it takes place, of course.

Bilateral Relationship With U.S. Reviewed

PM0401143591 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
4 Jan 91 First Edition p 5

[Article by Gennadiy Vasilyev: "This Year, Last Year; USSR-United States: Test of History"]

[Text] It was a little over a year ago. All of us who were covering the Soviet-U.S. meeting off the coast of Malta were impressed by the fact that M.S. Gorbachev and G. Bush's final news conference was a joint one. Previously, in Geneva, in Reykjavik, and in Washington in 1987, on completing their work, the two countries' presidents had gone their individual ways and met with journalists separately. Now, for the first time, they were sitting at the same table, not only answering correspondents' questions but, as it were, continuing the dialogue, not behind closed doors but in public.

In a way, this was accidental. The storm that blew up off the coast of the island state, as if controlled by some evil spirit, prevented the U.S. President from boarding his cruiser. He had to take advantage of the hospitality of the Soviet motor ship Maksim Gorkiy, which was moored there. But journalists saw the presidents' first joint news conference as something more than a coincidence. They saw it as a sign of trust, of a certain human intimacy that had developed in the relationship between the two great powers.

It is only 13 months since then. And no one is surprised any more either by joint news conferences and statements by the Soviet and U.S. presidents or by regular telephone conversations between them, or by a new year message to the other's people. Relations between the two states' leaders are not only relations of trust but are also practical relations, and they are implemented both on a periodic basis and in an "impromptu" way, so to speak, when circumstances require it. Suffice to recall that last year Gorbachev and Bush met on three occasions: In June, in Washington, where agreements were signed that lay the foundations for further movement toward a safe, nonviolent world; in September, in Helsinki, when they had to "synchronize watches," particularly in connection with the crisis in the Persian Gulf, and, finally, in November, in Paris, where the top leaders of the USSR and the United States made a substantial contribution, in keeping with the countries' role, to the building of the new Europe. Soon, in February, there will be another Soviet-U.S. summit. It is expected that it will see the signing of a Soviet-U.S. treaty of great worldwide importance on a 30-percent reduction in strategic offensive armaments.

My purpose in writing about this is not to make people think tender thoughts. These are grim times. For all the journalist's subtlety regarding foreign affairs, the reader will ask him a direct question: "But what's in it for us?" So I want to say that the fundamental improvement of Soviet-U.S. relations which was so manifest last year is a great and entirely tangible benefit. How much worse it would have been for us if there had been the pressure of external tension and a crippling arms race on top of the heavy burden of internal strife, universal shortages, and general discontent!

We have not yet fully appreciated the depth of the changes that are taking place in the world. Changes brought about by our actions—the radical restructuring of our society and the fundamentally new approach to relations between states. Freedom of choice, de-ideologization of interstate relations, the priority of human values—these ideas, now familiar to all, have been called the principles of the new political thinking. In my view they are the rules of civilized behavior. Because civilized conduct is not just politeness, not just good manners, but a willingness to consider a partner's interests, an ability to settle conflicts peacefully. And, of course, freedom from fanaticism of any kind—religious, nationalist, ideological—which addles the brain.

Education in civilized relations—this, essentially, is what we are all undergoing at the moment, countries and individuals. It is no easy process. The old, confrontational approaches are in people's blood. Ours and theirs. Many people get suspicious when two powers act together, rather than fouling things up for one another, which is what we have been used to in the past. There is even a theory about this in America, known as the "no-win situation" (a gain for the United States is always a loss for the USSR, and vice versa).

As if specifically to find out how serious all this is, how loyal the sides are to their declared principles, life has sent our countries severe tests in recent months. The rapid changes in East Europe, the swift unification of Germany, the military-political crisis in the Persian Gulf.... Fundamental decisions have had to be taken in Moscow and in Washington. They have had to address important questions in a totally new, often unpredictable situation, without much time for thought.

It is easy to imagine what dangerous forms the apparently unexpected but historically conditioned changes in East Europe might have assumed had cold war conditions remained. I think there would have been a real threat of military confrontation. The general improvement in the international atmosphere saved Europe. The Soviet Union demonstrated its loyalty to the principle of the peoples' freedom of choice and noninterference in other countries' internal affairs, which is not only just but was the only sensible way to act in the circumstances. The U.S. Administration displayed sufficient restraint, a reluctance to add fuel to the fire. At the recent all-European meeting, the USSR and the United States confirmed their adherence to the course of creating a new international political system in Europe, of establishing a safer, more civilized world order.

The Persian Gulf crisis is yet another serious test of the new relationship between the USSR and the United States. Not so long ago Iraq's annexation of Kuwait almost certainly would have put our countries on opposite sides of the fence. On this occasion we are in the same boat as the Americans politically—we voted together at the United Nations for condemnation of the aggressor and sanctions against it. I know some people here might consider it a betrayal of principles and a renunciation of the conventional postulates of the "anti-imperialist struggle." I think that in fact our policy on this acute question is not only principled—an aggressor is an aggressor, whoever he is, "friendly" or "alien"—but it meets our national interests, the line of extinguishing rather than kindling regional conflicts.

As for the U.S. side, the main test of its new thinking is in its attitude toward the radical changes in the USSR. It took time for the U.S. Administration to define its position. Now President Bush formulates his stance very clearly: "I want perestroyka to succeed. The Soviet Union is going through difficult, hard times. However, I believe that for that very reason there is every justification for acting now to help the Soviet Union to continue to adhere to the course of democratization and to implement market reforms. The United States wants the Soviet Union to be able to act as a full and prosperous member of the international community of states..."

During a recent assignment in the United States I talked with many Americans involved in their country's politics—with leading officials of the National Security Council apparatus, with the head of the State Department's Soviet desk, with a well-known Washington lawyer, and with an important New York businessman.

They all said that the United States wants perestroyka to succeed, that it is in the interests of the United States and the whole world. I have no reason to doubt the sincerity of these words. But all this does not mean that the practical approaches in the United States to the question of addressing the complex processes taking place in our country do not vary.

President Bush made his statement at a news conference, during which he announced his decision to temporarily revoke the Jackson-Vanik amendment, which essentially prohibits the granting of government-guaranteed credits to the Soviet Union. As a result we will receive loans of around $1 billion to acquire grain that has already been purchased from U.S. farmers but has not been paid for. But the Americans are in no hurry to give our economnic reorganization extensive financial assistance. They reckon that until we get a functioning market any dollars that are injected will be soaked up and disappear.

I have to acknowledge that the Americans put their hesitant approach to the Soviet Union down to the unclear prospects for the development of the situation in our country. How is the United States supposed to act given the exacerbation of the social situation and the separatist trends in the USSR—U.S. politicians, academics, and journalists are now beginning to debate this. "Fundamental political questions are at stake," M. Mandelbaum, director of the East-West relations project at the New York Council on Foreign Relations, said. "Who will control the country's Armed Forces? Whom do the resources belong to? Who will have the right to levy taxes and regulate the economy?" "Moreover," the academician continued, "the United States needs a central authority with which it would be able to conduct talks on military questions." According to Mandelbaum, the Bush administration has thus far sought not to take sides in the power struggle that has developed in the Soviet Union, but it is unlikely that it will be able to put it off for much longer.

Assessments that the line of strengthening law and order in the USSR could result in a move to the right and the discontinuation of reforms have caused a great deal of concern in Washington. Here is what THE LOS ANGELES TIMES writes about it: "The administration admits that it can do little to directly influence events in Moscow. But, at the same time, if the process of reforms—political, economic, and in the human rights sphere—is reversed, the United States, officials say, would be forced to condemn this development and perhaps even resort to sanctions." Thus, U.S. policy toward the USSR will be determined primarily by the way events develop in our country.

Mutual understanding and cooperation between our countries will expand, I hope. Because they are developing on a newfound realistic basis, on the realization that the interests of the two countries, free from ideological fanaticism, are not that irreconcilable after all. "It turns out," the well-known U.S. sovietologist Robert Legvold [name as transliterated] said, "that there are very few areas in the world where our interests do not coincide sufficiently for us to be able to behave as partners and not as rivals—not to mention the relationship we used to have, as enemies."

Of course, the process of the "humanization" of Soviet-U.S. relations is in its fledgling stage. To draw a parallel with the development of human civilization, we might say that we are living in the age when our hairy ancestors emerged from their caves (from the trenches of the cold war, in our case), looked around, and set off to explore the mysterious, wide world. The nuclear clubs, each with thousands of warheads, which the two "superpowers" hold in their hands are not, of course, a mark of civilization. But it was in this decisive area that movement toward a sensible world order began. The old year has seen the almost complete destruction of intermediate- and shorter-range missiles under the Soviet-U.S. treaty pertaining to those missiles, a very important treaty on major cuts in conventional armaments in Europe was signed in Paris recently, and this process is continuing.

Peoples and states have reached new shores. The improvement of Soviet-U.S. relations imparts powerful mmomentum to the promising changes on our planet. While not wishing to succumb to false emotion, I will say that the future of the world, and our own future with it, will be decided at home, in our anxious, fraught day-to-day existence, which abounds in all manner of shortages.

Northeast Asia

Japan To Ship Goods in Exchange For USSR Oil

LD0401172591 Moscow World Service in English 1600 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] Japan's six largest companies are going to ship one billion dollars worth of foodstuffs and manufactures to the Soviet Union in exchange for oil. A statement to this effect was made by the leaders of the Nissho Iwai Corporation in the newspaper YOMIURI SHIMBUN. According to business circles, this step will be made at the request of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

The Japanese Government is also going to grant to the Soviet Union as a gift a large amount of medicine and foodstuffs and a $100 million loan.

Deputy Foreign Minister Meets PRC Ambassador

OW0501114891 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 0100 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Soviet Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Rogachev has received Yu Hongliang, ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Soviet Union. They discussed the results of the meeting of work teams of Soviet-Chinese border talks held in Beijing last

December. The two sides also exchanged opinions on certain questions in regard to relations between the two countries.

USSR Envoy to DPRK on Relations With Koreas

SK0601052691 Moscow International Service in Korean 1100 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Interview with Aleksandr Kapto, new Soviet ambassador to the DPRK, from the "Focus on Asia" program—recorded, in Russian with superimposed translation into Korean]

[Text] Aleksandr Kapto has been appointed as the new Soviet ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the DPRK.

Before his appointment, he worked as director of the Ideology Department of the CPSU Central Committee. Kapto, doctor of philosophy and deputy to the Soviet Congress of People's Deputies, has had a long career as a party functionary and was at one time Soviet ambassador to Cuba.

Prior to his departure for the DPRK, he gave an interview to Radio Moscow. You are about to hear what he said in his interview.

[Radio Moscow] Could you please say a few words about the present state of relations between the Soviet Union and the DPRK, and about your expectations for their development.

[Kapto] As you may know, the Soviet Union was the first among the countries that recognized and established diplomatic relations with the DPRK. For decades, the two countries have forged friendly and cooperative relations in various fields.

Past experiences show that these relations have greatly helped and still help the Soviet Union and the DPRK fulfill the task of achieving steady development.

The world has seen dramatic changes take place in recent years. The cold war and the policy of confrontation that accompanied it are matters of the past. While trying to take into consideration the political reality, including the existence of two independent states, and nurture broad-based international cooperation, the Soviet Union has established diplomatic relations with the ROK.

We in the Soviet Union believe that the development in USSR-ROK relations would not inflict a loss on any third country, including the DPRK. We intend to develop the traditional relationship of friendship with the DPRK and cooperate with it in the international community.

[Radio Moscow] What kind of international cooperation do you have in mind and what prospects do you see for economic cooperation between the Soviet Union and the DPRK?

[Kapto] Cooperation between the Soviet Union and the DPRK conducted in the international community has a great future. This is because the two countries have identical or similar stands on the key issues of the present era.

I think it is important for the two countries to cooperate closely in their mutual efforts to ease tensions, strengthen international security, and establish peaceful and mutual cooperation between peoples.

The Soviet Union will, as in the past, cooperate with the Korean people in their struggle to maintain peace and relax tensions on the Korean Peninsula and create favorable conditions for a fair coordination of the Korean question in the interest of Korea and its people.

In terms of economic cooperation between the Soviet Union and the DPRK, trade, economic, and technological ties carry great weight. The economies of the two countries are closely interwoven. However, it must be frankly admitted that against the background of general and steady development, the two countries have nurtured a sort of independence and have encountered difficulties.

Today, many problems appear to be different from those in the past. This requires that the two countries deepen and perfect their bilateral economic cooperation so as to make the Soviet and Korean peoples see its results earlier and more completely.

[Radio Moscow] The DPRK and the RSFSR have recently signed a government-to-government treaty on trade and economic cooperation. Seen in this light, how do you see the possibility of developing direct ties between the DPRK and Soviet republics?

[Kapto] As you may know, one of the pressing problems facing the Soviet Union is how to ensure its republics' substantial sovereignty and preserve, reform, and strengthen the Soviet Union based on the union treaty.

The preparations for signing this treaty are nearing completion. For instance, then idea that each republic that will sign the union treaty will have to have full rights to sign and carry out international agreements on its own in nonpolitical areas, such as culture, science, and economy is more widely supported.

I think the treaty on trade and economic cooperation signed between the DPRK and the RSFSR must be assessed in this context.

Near East & South Asia

Belonogov: No Soviet Troops To Be Sent to Gulf

LD0401203591 Berlin ADN In German 1943 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow (ADN)—Neither the Foreign Ministry nor the Defense Ministry have had or have the intention to send Soviet Armed Forces to the Arabian Peninsula.

This was affirmed by USSR Vice Foreign Minister Aleksandr Belonogov in an INTERFAX interview. "I do not see anyone who would be sufficiently courageous to present such a proposal in the Supreme Soviet," Belonogov replied when asked whether Soviet troops would be sent to the conflict zone under any circumstances.

Concerning the Iraqi leadership's dissatisfaction with the Soviet position, the minister said that when Iraq decided to occupy Kuwait it had made a big mistake in assuming that the USSR would remain neutral towards Baghdad's aggressive actions. "The radical changes that have taken place in our thinking, as well as in our approach to international relations and international law, were not taken into account by them."

Dzasokhov on Reaction to Congress Gulf Decision

LD0501190791 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1725 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow, 5 Jan (TASS)—The decision of the Fourth Congress of People's Deputies of the USSR on the military-political situation in the Persian Gulf is being seen primarily as a move intensifying hope for a victory for common sense and wisdom and for ending an extremely dangerous situation without the need to use force, said Aleksandr Dzasokhov, chairman of the international affairs committee of the USSR Supreme Soviet. The attitude of the congress has attracted much attention throughout the world, the Soviet parliamentarian noted in a TASS interview. The congress' decision blends in well with efforts to avert an explosion. It is seen as an appeal for more international cooperation to defuse the crisis by political means and to prevent a military conflict. Clearly, the reaction to the decision and the conviction that the pooling of the efforts of the Soviet Union, which continues to use its influence on Iraq, with the political and diplomatic moves of other countries, increases the chances of overcoming the crisis in the Persian Gulf by peaceful means.

"Many political figures note with satisfaction that the supreme body of legislative power in the USSR has declared its support for the UN Security Council resolutions made as soon as Iraq invaded Kuwait and which confirm the unchanging nature of the political line of the Soviet Union," it is stressed in the interview. "Such a response to the Soviet position in the international community assumes even more significance because in recent days foreign news media have been debating the theme of the possibility of changes in the foreign policy of the USSR."

In conclusion, the chairman of the international affairs committee noted that a part of the decision which is being especially singled out abroad deals with the need for the USSR Supreme Soviet's agreement to decisions requiring approval by the supreme legislative authority. Such a formulation of the issue puts an end to conjectures about the possibility of Soviet troops appearing in the Gulf region.

Petrovskiy Stresses Peaceful Gulf Solution

LD0401154991 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1510 GMT 4 Jan 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow, 4 Jan (TASS)—"Little time remains before the 'goodwill pause' expires but, nevertheless, it is enough for finding a political solution to the crisis in the Persian Gulf," Vladimir Petrovskiy, USSR deputy minister of foreign affairs, thinks. In today's conversation with Soviet journalists at the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs press center, he stressed that a period of "quiet diplomacy" in the search for a peaceful settlement in the Gulf is now under way. The Soviet Union is maintaining permanent contact with the United States, Iraq, the Nonaligned Movement, and Arab states, he noted. The USSR "welcomes the new initiative" put forward by U.S. President George Bush about the holding during the period of 7 to 9 January in Switzerland of a meeting between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Iraqi Foreign Affairs Minister Tariq 'Aziz. "Extremely little time remains, but, I repeat," Vladimir Petrovskiy said, "not too little for preventing a tragic outcome." "Everything depends on Iraq, on whether or not common sense will prevail there," he stressed.

The deputy USSR foreign minister noted the great role played by the Soviet Government bodies in successfully solving such an important humanitarian task as the evacuation of Soviet citizens from the conflict region. Approximately 540 Soviet citizens now remain in Iraq, he said, but all those who have expressed the desire to leave the country will be out before 10 January (approximately 150 will remain).

Vladimir Petrovskiy noted that the crisis in the Persian Gulf is the first in the post-confrontation period. The world community has demonstrated an "impressive unanimity" in its desire to solve this conflict by peaceful political means. If we succeed in reaching such a settlement in the Gulf today, this will be "an excellent precedent" for solving crisis situations in other regions of the world, the USSR deputy foreign minister said in conclusion.

Veteran Appeals for Withdrawal From Kuwait

PM0401231591 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Jan 91 Union Edition p 6

[Letter from war and labor veteran D. Brylinskiy under the rubric "From the International Departments' Mail": "Open Letter to Saddam Husayn"]

[Text] Mr. President!

I fought in the Great Patriotic War. I know from my own experience what sorrow and human suffering war brings. A serviceman killed or injured means an irreplaceable loss for fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, wives and loved ones, and children. A deadly threat hangs over the Arab world. The peoples of Iraq, Kuwait, and other

countries in the region live in great fear for their future. A great deal, if not everything, now depends on you.

I beg and implore you to make the right decision: Order your troops to leave Kuwait, enabling the people of that small country to live in peace. Save your own people from the suffering which war will bring if it breaks out. You are not only a state leader, you are also a son, a husband, and a father. Just think what lies in store for parents if you do not heed the voice of reason.

Our times will not tolerate aggression. The United Nations has declared this. You must take account of this, you are obliged to do so. You have violated the peace, and you are required to restore it. The people of our country, as well as the peoples of the United States, Britain, France, Egypt, and many others, do not bear Iraq any malice. They want one thing: Iraq's troops must leave Kuwaiti territory.

Mr. President! The keys to peace are in your hands. Cast aside ambitions and self-love and evaluate the situation soberly. Does war alone—terrible, destructive war—suit your purpose? Should you be responsible for war breaking out, who knows what would happen. One thing is clear: Thousands upon thousands of families in Iraq and in the countries which have come to Kuwait's defense will never see their relatives again.

I appeal to you and rely on your reason, humanity, and good sense, on your making the only correct decision—to withdraw your troops from Kuwait. Time does not wait. Make haste. Man is born for goodness. Renounce evil, I beg you. If you do not heed the voice of reason, do not rectify your own mistake, and deny the people of Kuwait the right to have their own statehood, then nothing and no one will save you from just retribution.

I personally wish you, Mr. President, your family, and your people only goodness and happiness.

With respect,

[Signed] D. Brylinskiy, war and labor veteran, Khmelnitskiy City

Foundation Discourages Role in Gulf Hostilities

PM0401141191 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 4 Jan 91 First Edition p 5

["Statement by Soviet Foundation for National and International Security" carried under the rubric "Persian Gulf: Time Is Pressing"]

[Text] The Soviet public is alarmed at the extreme deterioration of the situation in the Persian Gulf region. While resolutely condemning the Iraqi regime's aggression against the sovereign state of Kuwait, Soviet people at the same time are expressing serious concern at the concentration of numerous military contingents and the increasing threat of hostilities emerging in the Persian Gulf zone.

If war breaks out in this region, especially a war involving the use of weapons of mass destruction, it will inevitably lead to incalculable loss of life and unpredictable disastrous economic, environmental, and humanitarian consequences. It will be a tragedy not only for the peoples of the region's countries but also for all mankind. Violence cannot be eliminated by violence on an even greater scale; justice can be restored only by just means.

Supporting the peace-loving efforts of the international community, the Foundation for National and International Security believes that every effort must be made to seek ways and means for a peaceful settlement of the conflict and everything possible must be done to ensure that the huge contingents of troops massed in the Persian Gulf region do not embark upon a military clash. The ways and forms of a settlement must be determined primarily by the Arab states themselves on the basis of the norms of international law.

Calls for the use of military force run counter to the principles of the new political thinking and the new Soviet foreign policy. The Foundation for National and International Security expresses the hope that the Soviet Government will refrain from any participation in military actions in the Persian Gulf region and also in any actions creating the conditions for the implementation of such actions. No Soviet person must take a direct or indirect part in such hostilities.

Opposing armed interference in events in this region, the foundation calls on the Soviet Government to do everything it can to exert a restraining influence on the parties involved in the conflict, seeking a solution of it by peaceful means alone.

Israeli Flag Hoisted Over Moscow Consulate

PM0401153991 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Jan 91 Union Edition p 6

[Report by V. Lashkul: "Israel's Flag in Moscow"]

[Text] The ceremonial raising of the Israeli state flag over that country's consulate in our capital took place on 3 January.

It should be recalled that diplomatic relations between Moscow and Tel Aviv were broken off 10 June 1967 after the world community's unsuccessful attempts to stop Israel's aggression against Arab countries, which resulted in Israel's seizure of the Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip from the United Arab Republic, the West Bank and East Jerusalem from Jordan, and the Golan Heights from Syria.

In the search for a just settlement of the Near East conflict in the interests of all the parties to it, the USSR has made constructive steps to normalize relations with Israel. One would like to hope that Tel Aviv will draw sensible conclusions from this, heed the world public's voice, and fulfill UN Security Council Resolution 242

demanding the withdrawal of the Israeli Armed Forces from all occupied Arab territories and the just solution of the Palestinian problem.

Sub-Saharan Africa

Deteriorating Situation in Somalia Detailed

EA0501190491 Moscow International Service in Swahili 1700 GMT 3 Jan 91

[From the "Day's Major Events" program with Aleksandr Mikhailov]

[Text] The situation in the Somali capital is changing rapidly. Reports from Mogadishu vary widely because telephone contact has been cut. The rebels claim that they control the whole city and that their forces are besieging the airport and the bunker in which Siad Barre has barricaded himself and his followers. The government says that the situation in the city is under the control of the army and security forces. How strange. The government claims that it wants to avoid taking additional severe measures in order to prevent a bloodbath. Yesterday, a government official appealed to the rebels via the radio to halt the bloodshed and the internecine battles which benefit neither side. The rebels ignored the appeal. The leaders of the United Somali Congress [USC] said their struggle would continue until Siad Barre resigns.

The news that the rebels are consolidating their positions is further confirmed by the reports that 15,000 of their followers are now heading toward the capital. There are reports that large forces of other opposition parties, namely the Somali National Movement and the Somali Patriotic Movement are also marching toward Mogadishu to take part in the battle. The government is reinforcing its forces.

Diplomats from [word indistinct] have reported that two MiG aircraft flew over Mogadishu. It is impossible to predict what will happen to Mogadishu if the Air Force takes part in the fighting. Sad events could occur in Somalia if that country followed the example of Monrovia where, after gaining victory, various rebel groups started to fight it out among themselves. These events are well known to the world. Therefore, the EEC has appealed to the warring factions to find a peaceful solution to the strife, and the Egyptian Government said it is exerting every effort to arrange peace talks.

The situation in Somalia is also uncertain because Italy, Somalia's former colonial power, has decided to send warships and four military aircraft to the country. The reason officially given for sending Italian Army personnel into Somalia is to evacuate foreign citizens from that country. However, no one can confirm that the presence of foreign troops in Somalia would not further jeopardize the situation in the country. An official USC spokesman said in a statement issued in Rome yesterday that his party was against using warships and military aircraft to evacuate foreign citizens. The Somali Embassy in Rome has appealed to the Italian Government not to further fan the conflict in Somalia by its military intervention, even if it is only for the understandable purpose of evacuating its citizens. It seems that this is the only thing that unites the government and the rebels today.

Soviets Moved to U.S. Embassy

LD0501173191 Moscow TASS in English 1704 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow January 5 TASS—The internal political situation dramatically worsened in Somalia during the past several days. Fighting is going on in its capital, Mogadishu. The loss of life, numerous cases of looting and gangsterism were reported. Armed groups penetrated the territory of the Soviet Embassy on more than one occasion, which threatened the lives of Soviet people, a Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman reported today.

Because of the extremely tense situation in Mogadishu, as well as its unpredictability, and considering the fact that food and water reserves in the Soviet Embassy were running out, the attempt was made on January 4 to send a Soviet plane to the Somalian capital for evacuating Soviet people and citizens of other countries. Unfortunately, it had to return after coming close to Mogadishu, because the airport was blocked at that time as a result of the fighting.

Thanks to Soviet-American cooperation, all staff members of Soviet institutions moved to the U.S. Embassy in Mogadishu on January 5, from where they are planned to be evacuated from Somalia. All the Soviet people are alive and in good health.

Shevardnadze and Baker had a telephone conversation today and discussed, among other things, the evacuation of Soviet and American citizens from Somalia.

The Soviet foreign minister expressed gratitude to the U.S. side for its assistance.

Citizens Evacuated from Mogadishu

PM0601203791 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 7 Jan 91 Second Edition p 4

[S. Demidov report: "Somalia: In the Vortex of Fire"]

[Excerpts] Addis Ababa, 6 Dec—The air above Mogadishu is heavy with the acrid smell of burning. The war-torn city is like a casualty agonizing in the throes of death, after eight days and nights of street fighting between the government army and armed detachments of the United Somali Congress and formations of the Somali National Movement and the Somali Patriotic Movement, which hastened to help them. [passage omitted]

The operation to evacuate more than 400 citizens of 19 foreign states, who were left in the Somali capital, was finally and successfully concluded yesterday after several unsuccessful attempts. Its success was ensured by two U.S. Navy warships that had anchored in the roadstead off Mogadishu and an Italian transport aircraft. More than 250 persons who had taken refuge at the U.S. Embassy were moved at about 1800 by helicopter on board the frigates, which then set course for Kenya's shores. The lives of the foreigners—including Soviet citizens, diplomats headed by USSR Ambassador to Somalia V.V. Korneyev, embassy staffers, and members of their families—are no longer in any danger. They arrived uneventfully in the Kenyan port of Mombasa. The remaining foreign citizens and several dozen Somali refugees were moved on to Kenya's capital Nairobi on an Italian military transport aircraft. [passage omitted]

Evacuees on U.S. Navy Ship

LD0701115791 Moscow TASS in English 1125 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] January 7 TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Korobov reports from aboard the U.S. Navy helicopter-carrier Guam [dateline as received]—All personnel of Soviet institutions in Somalia and members of their families left Mogadishu on January 6. Evacuation of the citizens of the USSR, Germany, Britain, several Arab and African states was carried out by U.S. Marines. All Soviet citizens are aboard the U.S. Navy helicopter carrier Guam now. All of them are in good health. The ship is heading to Muscat, capital of Oman.

The evacuation was prompted by the serious deterioration of the situation in Mogadishu as a result of two weeks of fierce clashes between troops loyal to President Mohamed Siad Barre and rebels from the United Somalian Congress.

In this situation, the security of Soviet citizens was jeopardised. They repeatedly came under attack by armed groups from December 30, 1990 to January 5, 1991.

East Europe

'Representative Delegation' Departs for Albania

PM0401180791 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 5 Jan 91 p 3

[Report from roundup under the rubric "TASS and IAN Report": "Delegation's Visit"]

[Text] 4 Jan—A representative delegation headed by Yevgeniy Osadchuk, USSR deputy minister of foreign economic relations, has left for Albania. This is the first official Soviet visit to the People's Socialist Republic of Albania at government level after an absence of any relations between the two countries for almost 30 years. After the talks in Tirana, the USSR and Albania are expected to sign an agreement on trade, economic, scientific, and technical cooperation and also a protocol on commodity turnover and payments in 1991.

West Europe

FRG Decision To Send Aircraft to Turkey Viewed

PM0501163791 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Jan 91 Union Edition p 4

[Report by Ye. Bovkun: "Bonn's Aces Off to Turkey"]

[Text] Bonn—A few days ago the NATO Military Planning Committee obliged the FRG to include 18 of its bombers in the "mobile forces" group comprising 40 military aircraft to be deployed in Turkey as a "deterrent" against Iraq. The squadron of sharp-nosed "Alpha Jets" with Iron Cross markings on the fusselage is to arrive there no later than 10 January, together with subunits from Italy and Belgium.

The decision to dispatch its pilots to the hotbed of tension was, obviously, not an easy one for the Federal Government to make. The opposition in the shape of the Social Democrats, with reference to Article 115 of the Fundamental Law which foresees the utilization of the German Armed Forces exclusively in the event of an attack on the FRG, is prepared to recognize the validity of this decision provided it is approved by two-thirds of Bundestag deputies. The government, on the other hand, gives priority to Article 24 of the Constitution stating that, in the interests of collective security and of maintaining peace in Europe and in other regions, the Federation may subordinate its sovereign rights to "intergovernmental associations," in this case the Atlantic Alliance.

The misgivings of the parliamentary opposition and of citizens are understandable. In present-day Germany, any decision to dispatch its own armed forces to a military conflict zone would be unpopular; however, it is now a question of alliance obligations prevailing over the FRG's domestic laws. Assistance has been requested by Turkey, the only country among the NATO partners to have a common border with Iraq. The Federal Government cannot refuse. At the same time, FRG representatives in Brussels let it be known that direct use of FRG forces is possible only in the event of Turkey suffering aggression.

The Federal Republic was obliged more than once to dispatch Bundesmarine ships and naval aviation for maneuvers outside its national territory. Bonn politicians, however, have so far been able to successfully resist the dispatch of Bundeswehr units to the Persian Gulf. After the seizure of Kuwait the FRG also clearly stated that it does not intend to put in a military presence in that region. The present decision marks a

certain shift in German politics, although Bonn is still trying to tread a tightrope between its alliance duties and national interests.

Sweden's Expulsion of Soviet Diplomats Reported

PM0401111191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Jan 91 Union Edition p 6

[Report by M. Zubko: "Soviet Staffers Expelled"]

[Text] Stockholm—The first few days of the new year brought news which will obviously cloud the development of good-neighborly relations between the Soviet Union and Sweden: The Swedish authorities have decided to expel three staffers from Soviet establishments in the country.

These are staffers at the USSR Embassy in Sweden, the trade mission, and one other Soviet establishment. All three have been accused of engaging in "unlawful subversive activity." What form did this activity take? Mats Borjesson, director of Sapo, the Swedish security service, gave a quite detailed answer to that question on television yesterday evening.

All three, he said, tried to recruit agents to obtain defense and economic information. Their activity was directed against Sweden.

"How long had this activity gone on?" the news program anchorman asked Mats Borjesson.

"I can say that we kept them under surveillance for a long time."

"Did they manage to do Sweden any harm?"

"No, they did not, because we took the necessary measures in time."

"Does that mean that this activity has been continuing even during the period of detente?"

"Despite detente the Soviet Union has not reduced its efforts in the intelligence sphere. We are of the firm opinion that espionage is still being conducted against our defense system."

Those are the Swedish reasons for the expulsion decision. It is not impossible that the Soviet assessment will be different. What is it? Probably we will learn that a little later. But for the moment I want to add the following. In all, the Swedes have declared six foreign citizens persona non grata. The other three are Chinese representatives. Swedish television has reported that Beijing has already retaliated by expelling the first secretary at the Swedish Embassy.

Stockholm's DAGENS NYHETER claims that since 1982 Sweden has expelled 15 Soviet citizens.

Latin America & Caribbean

Soviets to Investigate Nicaraguan Missile Deal

PM0701120691 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 4 Jan 91 p 3

[Report by A. Teplyuk: "The Missiles Went Astray"]

[Text] Managua—The Sandinist People's Army command has made a sensational announcement. Counterintelligence agencies have exposed a group of military and civilian personnel who engaged in criminal activity by selling a consignment of Soviet-made surface-to-air missiles to Salvadoran rebels.

Thirty missiles were illegally removed from a military unit in Nicaragua and covertly redirected to El Salvador. This is the first time that representatives of the Nicaraguan Army have officially admitted supplying weapons to the guerrillas.

The announcement made by the command indicates that the missiles were handed over to the Nicaraguans by the Soviet side in February 1986. At the time the Nicaraguans decided not to redirect these weapons under any circumstances. It goes without saying that this secret deal was very dangerous. In Central America every step along the road to peace requires enormous efforts. During a recent offensive the Salvadoran guerrillas destroyed at least six planes and helicopters belonging to the regular army. There is another side to this feat of arms. The air force was the army's trump card in its long war with the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front. It is doubtful, however, whether accurate shots fired into the sky bring a peaceful solution to the Salvadoran problem any closer. The analysts' forecast is that rebel successes may lead to a sudden upsurge in extreme right-wing activity.

The Soviet side will not remain indifferent to this criminal deal and will take part in investigating the circumstances surrounding the case. The very possibility of a secret operation proves that the Sandinist People's Army is still a state within a state, despite the fact that the top-ranking officers have sworn allegiance to the president.

Joint Letter Calls for Salvadoran Settlement

LD0501073391 Moscow TASS in English 0723 GMT 5 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Mikhail Kochetkov]

[Text] United Nations January 5 TASS—The Soviet Union and the United States have called for active efforts to reach a settlement in El Salvador.

In a joint letter to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker underscored the importance of a political solution in El Salvador and called for a U.N.-monitored ceasefire.

This would ensure the interests of all political forces in El Salvador, enable them to take part in elections and create conditions for U.N. Control over the elections, the message said.

The U.N. secretary-general's personal involvement is crucial for a Salvadorean settlement, the Soviet Union and the United States believe.

The two countries said they were prepared to help ensure that ceasefire agreements were honoured by the Salvadorean Government and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front.

After the letter was handed to Javier Perez de Cuellar, U.S. diplomats told reporters that the document was a further sign of cooperation between the two countries in settling regional conflicts.

Embassies Agreement Signed With Guatemala

LD0501102391 Moscow TASS in English 0956 GMT 1 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Nikolay Maslov]

[Text] United Nations January 5 TASS—The Soviet Union and Guatemala signed a joint communique to exchange embassies at the United Nations on Friday.

The ceremony was attended by Soviet representatives at the United Nations Yuliy Vorontsov and his Guatemalan counterpart Francisco Villagran de Leon.

The establishment of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Guatemala on April 19, 1945 was a milestone in bilateral relations, the communique says.

Friendship and cooperation between the Soviet and Guatemalan people is in the interest of both states, it says.

The exchange of diplomatic missions will serve to expand political, trade, economic, scientific and cultural cooperation, it says.

The Guatemalan government is deeply satisfied by the normalisation of relations with the Soviet Union, Villagran told TASS.

The Guatemalan people take a great interest in developments in the Soviet Union and believe that it is time to improve bilateral relations, he said.

The Soviet Union supports a peace settlement of conflicts in Central America and "our common efforts will hopefully end all conflicts in the region", he said.

Political & Social

Shevardnadze Discusses Resignation Decision

WA0401203091 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No 1, 3 Jan 91 p2

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze by chief editor Yegor Yakovlev in Moscow; date not given; first paragraph is editorial introduction; accompanying photo shows President Gorbachev conferring with Shevardnadze in unidentified location: "Visiting Eduard Shevardnadze"—quotation marks as published]

[Text] On behalf of the MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI collective, the newspaper's chief editor Yegor Yakovlev wished the USSR foreign minister a Happy New Year and wished him good health and a successful outcome in all his endeavors. During the meeting there was a conversation.

Shevardnadze explained that his decision to resign was not at all dictated by his personal relations with Mikhail Gorbachev, which are indeed long standing and which enjoy great mutual trust. Nor was his resignation the result of an emotional impetus. The background and deciding factors were different.

"The Soviet Union's present foreign policy line has yielded results: Interstate relations based on equal interests, on a mutual partnership, are starting to become established. I have tried not to deceive anyone, and others in turn have tried not to deceive me. This has actually happened. However, eventually I realized that if the country's destabilization continues and if the democratization process were to stop, it would become impossible to continue the foreign policy line pursued until now. The development of events could lead to a repetition of what has already happened in Tbilisi and Baku, in which case what kind of "new thinking" could we talk about? Obviously we will try to further develop our relations with all other countries, but will our partners want to do the same with us? They will be unable to avoid dealing with public opinion in their own countries.

"Everyone agrees with the fact that the country is in a state of crisis, that we face chaos and anarchy. At the same time, many people deny the possibility of a dictatorship. I believe that unless we succeed in extricating the country from the crisis, then dictatorship will be inevitable. What is the solution? The peoples must unite. First and foremost, the democratic forces must unite. For the sake of preserving democracy and the sovereignties that are now taking shape, for the sake of our joint salvation. Am I exaggerating? No, I do not think so.

"At the moment everyone is talking about the need for discipline and order. This really is necessary—vitally necessary. Unfortunately in many people's minds discipline and order are associated with the use of force. I am not sure that direct presidential management and any other punitive sanction, no matter what its objective, can really become a tool for resolving the present problems. It is very difficult to resign myself to the idea of violence, arbitrary acts, and vendettas being permitted against the background of the democratization process. And I wonder whether this really can fail to have repercussions on the country's foreign policy line, on the USSR's image. "The course I took, namely to resign, was the simplest, perhaps the most naive, but the most honest: I wanted to put the deputies on their guard and to warn the Congress of the real dangers. However, the majority of the Congress proved to have different ideas."

The way out of the present situation is primarily to overcome inactivity. "Three years ago, during talks with one of the Western leaders, we received good advice on what to do to reduce the money supply, which is not underpinned by goods in the Soviet Union. Above all, we should have established a housing market, and decisively increased the interest rates for savers. We took note of that advice, but it took us three years to find a solution to the question of the increase in interest rates on deposits. We did it too late: The people no longer intend to save money, they are seeking goods on which to spend it.

"The trouble is that many of us have simply stopped working. We hold constant congresses, sessions, meetings, and plenums, instead of solving the problems and working. This applies to everybody—the leadership, the ministers, and even the president. We are adopting laws which nobody implements. And the president is certainly now in the most difficult situation: It was he who initiated everything in a decisive way, it was he who first showed great courage. He is now in great difficulty..."

Shevardnadze also dealt in sorrowful tones with the problem of the current food situation: "If it is well known that supplies of foodstuffs in our country have not diminished but are simply not reaching the population, and if there is constant talk of speculation and sabotage, that means that we must take the road of deliberate rationing. Every person must know that he will be able to get hold of, say, his monthly 200 grams of butter. If the state does not have sufficient resources to do this right now, we must use the credits that we have obtained and are obtaining from many countries. At the present moment the people are not seeing results. There are still many who think that, the worse things get, the better it is for them. No, it is not in a dictatorship that we will find the way out, but in the creation of a fundamental kind of order within a framework of democracy and legality."

Asked what he intends doing in 1991, Shevardnadze replied that he would like to set up an association for foreign policy problems. He said that there are many interesting people who would like to get involved in analysis and forecasting with regard to international problems. "It is possible that solutions which we have been able to find in the past to the most complex problems and questions of international relations could

help us to resolve the conflict situations which afflict us in the context of interethnic relations within our own country."

Federation Council Holds 3 Jan Meeting

LD0501011491 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1430 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Moscow, 4 Jan (TASS)—Here are some notes on Thursday's meeting of the Federation Council in the Kremlin:

The classical saying that politics is the art of the possible springs to mind when, immediately after the event, you try to summarize your impressions of the Federation Council meeting held on 3 January in the Kremlin under the chairmanship of the USSR president. The main result of the meeting was approval in principle for this year's agreement on stabilization of the socioeconomic situation in the country. An important step was taken in the direction pointed by the decision of the Fourth Congress of USSR People's Deputies and the surmounting of the socioeconomic and political crisis.

Something that had seemed so far off, so difficult to achieve just a week ago during the final hours of the congress, had already become a reality by the evening of the second working day of the new year. Is this a good omen? The long-awaited light at the end of the tunnel?

A few minutes after the end of the meeting, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev agreed to answer journalists' questions. The TASS correspondents in particular asked whether the USSR president considered the conclusion of the agreement to be the priority objective of the present time, and if yes, then what did he consider to be the most significant feature of the document that had been discussed by the top leaders of all the Union republics and the Soviet state and government?

The agreement is our main concern at the start of the year, said Mikhail Sergeyevich. After all, the life of all Soviet people and the fate of our state depends on the earliest possible resolution of the range of questions that we have been discussing. The conclusion of the agreement cannot, however, be viewed in isolation from the root of everything: the question of power, the functioning of executive power throughout the country. After all, here ultimately lies the key to the realization of our plans. The mechanisms must be arranged as quickly as possible. Otherwise, there will continue to be a large gap between the making of decisions and implementation of those decisions.

The president acknowledged that recently he has had to do a great deal of work. Otherwise, it would have been difficult to arrive at a single view.

All the signs are that these approaches were not simple ones. [passage omitted]

The game was worth the candle. Judge for yourselves. The participants in the meeting all agreed that drafting of the document is now in its final stage. It recognizes the necessity of concluding contracts between enterprises as quickly as possible, regardless of their location, and of working to preserve existing economic ties and the free movement of manufactured and technical goods and consumer products between enterprises and regions.

It sets the task of creating conditions in which enterprises and organizations, regardless of forms of ownership and areas of jurisdiction, can guarantee supplies of goods, carry out work and services for overall state needs, and meet reciprocal obligations under inter-republican and intra-republican agreements. It also specifies guaranteed volumes for the supply of foodstuffs during the current year. These supplies are to be provided in accordance with the inter-republican agreement that has been adopted on this question. The document underlines strongly that these volumes are only the minimum which suppliers should endeavor to meet.

The document contains a guarantee that during the first quarter of the year the volume of supplies of fuel and energy for the social sphere, utilities, and domestic needs will not be less than in the corresponding period last year. Surely this eases the alarm we always feel at the approach of another winter?

Finally, there is an entire package of measures intended to create the financial basis for the stable functioning of the national economy of the republics and the country as a whole and to provide revenue for republican and Union budgets in 1991. In particular, it is judged necessary to establish all-Union and republican non-budget funds for the stabilization of the economy, in order to sustain individual enterprises during the transition to a market economy, to finance programs which are in the interests of all the republics, to pay for the necessary cost of conversion, and to be able to apportion subsidies, measures of financial support for the republics which are pegged to specific projects.

When you read the document, you cannot but notice its strong orientation toward social needs. It proposes stabilization measures which will bring the maximum relief to people, no matter which part of the country they live in, and solutions to problems connected with the transition to a market economy. For example, it is judged essential to pursue a coordinated policy in the sphere of price-setting, wage regulation, employment, migration, and the establishment of minimum guarantees in the social sphere.

The agreement, which is intended to remain in force right up to the signing of the new Union treaty, also envisages a specific mechanism for resolving possible disputes among different republics or between the republics and the Union as a whole. Such disputes will be considered within the Federation Council. [passage omitted]

Yes, indeed, we would like to see common sense prevail in the end, in all spheres of politics, work, and life. But, how do the participants in the first meeting of the

Federation Council this year view its results? This was the question we put to I.S. Silayev, chairman of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Council of Ministers.

We, said Ivan Stepanovich, are close to seeing the decisions of the Congress of USSR People's Deputies fulfilled. That was why we endeavored to seek ways of agreeing points of view, if not completely, then at least to the maximum degree. On this occasion the participatns in the meeting recognized that, by and large, they had achieved a large measure of agreement. Acceptable formulations were found for many disputed issues of fundamental importance.

Two new points have appeared in the draft agreement as a result of the discussion. We agreed, in particular, that questions involving the release of money into circulation would only be examined within the Federation Council. No further measures may be taken in this respect without its approval.

Second, the question of protocols which will be an inalienable part of the agreement, was inserted. This concerns the finer points of the relationship between the Union and the various republics. I consider the setting of a specific dealine, two days, for the finalization of the document to be another positive achievement.

And here is the opinion of I.A. Karimov, president of Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic: The agreement should, first and foremost, be considered an important step which will enable the whole country, and especially the Union republics and Union bodies, to work fully. A paradoxical situation has been created today: Not a single civilized state can allow itself to begin the year without approving a budget. Yet, we have managed to.

It is wrong to say, in my opinion, that today some Union republics have taken up a, so to speak, special position, that they are displaying ambitions and so on. Everybody understands perfectly well that it is impossible to work without a budget. The president and the representatives of the republics have done their utmost at this session to ensure that the agreement on the stabilization of the social and economic situation in the country be signed before the session of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

The Federation Council should become a real authoritative working body. I would like to underline an obligatory condition: Substantive powers should be guaranteed to every member of the Council. There is no need to indulge in token representation here. We should work and do business. Then, the Federation Council will enjoy a high authority. I think such a collective body is what is actually necessary; few in number, extensive in representation, mobile and that means it is capable to cope efficiently with the most acute problems.

We take a sober look at life. There will be more of such problems this year than we would like to have. There is no way that one can run away from them. But, it is actually from the Kremlin that a positive assurance is spreading that they will be resolved.

Further on Meeting

PM0401102991 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 Jan 91 Second Edition p 1

[TASS report: "Federation Council Session"]

[Text] A Federation Council session, attended by the top leaders of all Union republics and the Soviet state and Government, was held 3 January in the Kremlin under the chairmanship of the USSR president. During the session, participants approved in principle an agreement for 1991 on stabilizing the socioeconomic situation in the country. This proceeded from the country's general interests and the participant's responsibility to the peoples and guided by the resolution of the Fourth Congress of USSR People's Deputies "On the Situation in the Country and Priority Measures To Overcome the Prevailing Socioeconomic and Political Crisis."

Economic contracts must be concluded between enterprises regardless of their location and existing economic links must be preserved as well as the free movement of production, technical output and consumer goods between enterprises and regions.

A broad exchange of opinions took place. The following spoke in a debate that was held in a constructive atmosphere: B.N. Yeltsin, chairman of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet; K.M. Makhkamov, president of the Tajik SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic]; L.A. Ter-Petrosyan, chairman of the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet; T.I. Sigua, chairman of the Georgian SSR Council of Ministers; L.M. Kravchuk, chairman of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet; I.A. Karimov, president of the Uzbek SSR; A.N. Mutalibov, president of the Azerbaijan SSR; I.S. Silayev, chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers; U.K. Karamanov, prime minister of the Kazakh SSR; I.T. Godmanis, chairman of the Latvian SSR Council of Ministers; K.I. Masik, first deputy chairman of the Ukrainian SSR Council of Ministers; V.S. Pavlov, USSR minister of finance; Ya.A. Leymann, Estonian SSR minister of the economy; V.I. Shcherbakov, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Labor and Social Problems; and E.V. Bichkauskas, permanent representative of the Lithuanian SSR Council of Ministers at the USSR Council of Ministers.

Work on the document has entered the final stage. In the next few days the USSR president will send the text of the agreement to be signed in the union republics.

Gorbachev Aide Comments

PM0401184991 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Jan 91 Union Edition p 1

[Interview with Academician N.Ya. Petrakov, aide to the USSR president on economic issues, by M. Berger—

place and date not given; first two paragraphs are IZVESTIYA introduction: "Federation Council: On the Way to Concord"]

[Text] A meeting of the Federation Council was held 3 January under the chairmanship of USSR President M.S. Gorbachev. Top leaders of the union republics, the Soviet state, and the government participated in it. The participants approved in principle the agreement on stabilizing the socioeconomic situation in the country in 1991.

IZVESTIYA asked Academician N.Ya. Petrakov, aide to the USSR president on economic issues, to comment on the course and results of the Federation Council meeting.

[Petrakov] Frankly speaking, on gathering for the meeting I was afraid that it could all get bogged down in discouraging arguments, reprisals, and recriminations of not only an economic but also a political nature. But how pleasant it was to attend a constructive discussion, albeit one with arguments, but without confrontation or political labels. The economic agreement was discussed, and no one went beyond that problem.

[Berger] But Nikolay Yakovlevich, two republics were not represented by their top leaders. I mean Lithuania and Estonia. Should we not examine the political aspect here?

[Petrakov] That is so, and this was probably the only purely political aspect of the discussion. At the same time it should be emphasized that the representatives of both Estonia and Lithuania, in conveying their governments' opinions to the council, advocated the need for economic cooperation.

[Berger] Which issues would you single out as the main topics of the debate?

[Petrakov] There is, of course, the problem of creating a stable financial base for the functioning of the national economy in 1991. To be more specific, that of defining the principles for forming the revenues of the union budget and the republic budgets for this year.

[Berger] That is, this was something like a continuation of the argument about the budget which flared up at the congress?

[Petrakov] In general, yes, but a more global and as yet also unresolved problem could be perceived behind this—that of separating the powers of the Union and the republics. Having resolved it, it will be possible to determine who pays whom for what and how much. If power generation remains within the Union's jurisdiction, the republics must finance its maintenance and development; if, as a result of concluding the Union Treaty, the Bolshoi Theater passes, for example, to the jurisdiction of the Russian Government and the Moscow State University passes to Moscow's, then the financial flows will also have to be redistributed accordingly.

[Berger] But for the time being the question of the principles remains open?

[Petrakov] Yes, but we should not make a tragedy out of this. The main point is that it has become clear that the leaders want to reach agreement and they have all realized that it is possible to reach agreement.

[Berger] But on what specifically has it already been possible to reach agreement, for it seemed at the end of December that the contradictions, particularly in the sphere of forming the budget, had assumed an irreversible nature?

[Petrakov] The situation has been complicated by the fact that several republics have already adopted laws on the budget without taking the common interests into account. But, as the meeting showed, reasonable compromises that do not infringe on the sides' interests are possible. All agreed, for example, with the need to preserve guaranteed volumes of deliveries of food and energy sources in the first quarter of this year, particularly for the municipal and everyday spheres.

They also agreed on the distribution of income tax and other state taxes on the population. The full 100 percent of these receipts will go into the republic and local budgets. But taxes on export-import operations and custom. duties will go in full into the Union's revenue. They also agreed to stabilize funds of the Union and the republics and to regulate interbudgetary flows. They agreed that, before the Union Treaty is signed, fixed amounts will be transferred to the center for the management of union property and the funding of nationwide programs.

In a certain sense this agreement is a backward step, since the Union is abandoning such a civilized form of funding this expenditure as the federal tax, but the accord which has been reached makes it possible to eliminate the budget shock and discuss the problem.

[Berger] Many people probably remember that the main disagreements arose between the center and Russia over the turnover tax, which the Russian Parliament decided to leave entirely within the republic.

[Petrakov] Even here the problem proved soluble. If Russia lays claim to the whole turnover tax, then it must reconsider—and it is ready in principle to do so—its share in the sales tax, making it possible to balance the budgets.

On the whole, I would like to point out that they agreed on the temporary agreement, while the question of the principles has been left open for the time being. However, it is clear that the Federation Council can become an effective instrument for resolving the most complex problems.

Gorbachev Aide Clarifies Executive Power

LD0401135491 Moscow TASS in English 1310 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow January 4 TASS—"The law on amendments and addenda to the Constitution of the USSR to streamline the state administration system, adopted by the Fourth Congress of the USSR People's Deputies, is aimed at restoring normal economic and political conditions, without which there is no normal life in the country," USSR People's Deputy Georgiy Shakhnazarov, assistant to the Soviet president, told the PRAVITELSTVENNYY VESTNIK (GOVERNMENT HERALD) weekly.

"It was necessary to break the chain of incoherences that entangled the economic mechanism and began to erode it and disrupted the rhythm of people's life", he said.

"The key element of the new structure is a correct relationship between the Union and republics," Shakhnazarov said. "If we manage to establish it and create such an agency as the Federation Council with its new characteristics, the structure will be efficient. If we fail to do that, no system will help. We have to create a democratic system with due regard for the peculiarities of the Soviet state".

Shakhnazarov described as groundless assertions in the press that a spectre of dictatorship appears if great power is concentrated in the hands of one person.

"The main guarantee of precluding a dictatorial regime," he said, "is precisely in the freedom of speech and the freedom of the press, which warns society when the very first signs of a breach of democracy appear.

"We now have such freedom. Our administration pattern and its structure make talk about the threat of a dictatorship totally unfounded. A dictatorship is power based on violence. In this country, the presidential powers, however extensive, are based on law," Shakhnazarov said.

Comments on Union-Republic Relations

LD0501132191 Moscow TASS in English 1238 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow January 5 TASS—"Correct" relations between the union and republics are crucial to new power structures, according to a Gorbachev aide.

The new Federation Council could become an efficient ruling body, Georgiy Shakhnazarov said in an interview published in THE GOVERNMENT HERALD weekly today.

The Fourth USSR Congress of People's Deputies passed amendments to the Soviet Constitution, envisaging new state structures, he said.

The vice president will maintain contact with members of the Federation Council and perform representative functions, Shakhnazarov explained.

The Cabinet of Ministers—"is more limited than the Council of Ministers. It is subordinated to the president and is responsible to the USSR Supreme Soviet and is accountable to it."

The prime minister is one of the president's key aides, supervising day-to-day work of the cabinet in contrast to the chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers who presided over the entire government, he said.

The functions of the new Security Council have not yet been defined. It was designed to monitor internal and external security, he said.

The Federation Council will differ from the old council, which performed "consultative functions in a unitary society".

The Federation Council should be adapted to the federal structure when "the bulk of work at the presidential level is tested here", Shakhnazarov said.

He rejected suggestions that excessive power in one hands leads to a dictatorship. "The emergence or absence of a dictatorship has little to do with the structure of state power. It mostly depends on the correlation of political forces," he said.

Freedom of expression and the press will avert a dictatorship. "And we have such freedoms," he said.

Yakovlev Supports Gorbachev Criticism

LD0501123191 Moscow TASS in English 1156 GMT 5 Jan 90

[Text] Moscow January 5 TASS—Perestroyka is just beginning, according to Aleksandr Yakovlev, one of its chief architects.

"We have entered a stage when a new statehood and new economic relations are being created," Yakovlev said in an interview published in today's MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA.

"The movement towards society, which enables an individual to fully realise himself, begins with the signing of a union treaty and economic liberalisation," he said.

Asked about Gorbachev's waning popularity, Yakovlev admitted that "criticism of the president and his supporters is often well-founded".

"Such criticism prompts correct solutions. But there are many unfounded accusations and there is a desire to whip up tensions to their peak," he said.

Commenting on the possibility of a coup in the Soviet Union, Yakovlev said: "There is such a threat—but not in the usual sense, not in the higher echelons of power,

but rather at the level of middle-level management, at the level of the basic bureaucrat that now rules the country."

Gorbachev can pass any decision, but if it is blocked by the bureaucrat, it won't work, he said.

New structures will have to be set up this year to replace ministries and agencies, he said.

"Coordinating, rather than ruling bodies should be created. Otherwise Stalin's economic totalitarianism will hold fast," he said.

KGB Officer: Soviet Mafia Cooperates With West

AU0701122391 Hamburg BILD AM SONNTAG in German 6 Jan 91 p 4

[Interview with KGB Deputy Chief Viktor Grushko by Karl-Ludwig Guensche; place and date not given: "KGB Deputy Chief: Soviet Mafia Active in Berlin"]

[Text] [Guensche] Is the mafia in your country so strong that the KGB must protect the relief supplies from the West?

[Grushko] In our country crime is increasing very quickly. Organized crime is on the rise. The number of large-scale thefts in the economy, trade, and transportation system is growing. For this reason, the Soviet parliament ordered the KGB to fight, along with the militia, against economic sabotage to ensure the import of goods. The criminal elements have not yet permeated all spheres of our social life, however, so they are not a mafia in the real sense of the world.

[Guensche] How does your mafia work?

[Grushko] The methods of organized crime in the Soviet Union are the same as in the West: Blackmail, drugs, smuggling. The essential difference is that in the Soviet Union the criminals are exploiting the food shortage and the scarcity of consumer goods. They procure goods illegally and sell them at exorbitant prices, thus making huge illegal profits. They collaborate with Western "colleagues," particularly concerning the smuggling of works of art, drugs, and cars. Such criminals are working in Berlin, for example. They are mostly resettlers, but there are also Soviet citizens. We are ready to combat such cases in cooperation with the German authorities.

[Guensche] The KGB has warned that the mafia might plunge the country into chaos....

[Grushko] Unfortunately, these fears are not unfounded. Our professional criminals often cooperate with extremists, terrorists, and extreme nationalists. Their activities are increasing social and economic tensions in our country and hamper the citizens' everyday life.

[Guensche] What does the KGB do to combat organized crime?

[Grushko] During the past one-and-one-half years, the KGB has discovered 310 dangerous criminals, and goods and money worth 220 million rubles were confiscated. A total of 800 corrupt officials and members of the militia were brought before the court. These are initial steps. In December, a special KGB department was created to combat organized crime.

Donbass Miners Threaten To Halt Coal Deliveries

LD0401202791 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 4 Jan 90

[Report by G. Kondaurov; from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Excerpt] The situation is difficult in the Ukraine's coal industry. The enterprises in this sector are demanding subsidies of 1.3 billion rubles [R] for normal work. This problem cannot, of course, be resolved without the support of Union bodies—the country's government and Supreme Soviet.

[Kondaurov] The first working days of the New Year have become a time of anxious waiting for the Donbass miners. There is no money in the clearing accounts of the coal enterprises. Indebtedness regarding earnings exceeds the monthly amount at some coal mines. The debts of the Donetskugol Production Association alone amount to R9 million.

Why is this occurring? New tax deductions toward the budget have appeared. The prime cost of coal has sharply increased due to the fact that the equipment and materials that the coal industry receives from other sectors are much more expensive. The Donetskugol association has more than 500 suppliers, and many have already doubled or trebled prices for their own output. The sole explanation is the market. Under market conditions, however, the miners have found themselves underprivileged. Despite promises the Union government has not set new prices for coal by 1 January and has not informed the mines what funds they will have at their disposal.

Now the general directors of the Donbass' coal associations and the work collective councils have embarked on an extreme measure. In a telegram to the country's government and the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet they warn that from 10 January they will halt dispatching coal for consumers unless these matters are resolved. [passage omitted]

PRAVDA Ceases Publication on Sundays

LD0401153391 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Jan 91 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed announcement: "To Our Readers"]

[Text] In the new year, regrettably, for the first time our subscribers will not be receiving PRAVDA on Sundays. We have already reported the reasons: The mailmen are having a break as well. Of course, it is annoying both for

readers and for the staff of PRAVDA, particularly as we were making a big effort to make the Sunday editions as interesting as possible.

So that you do not lose out, the editorial office will be publishing a more original paper on Saturdays than on ordinary days. The current issue is the first "Saturday-Sunday" edition. Incidentally, in time we are thinking of publishing a Sunday supplement to the paper as well.

Future of 'Vzglyad' Program in Question

LD0501121891 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] The leadership of the USSR Gosteleradio [State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting] has stopped the "Vzglyad" program from going on the air for the second time. According to Lidiya Cheremushkina, the program's editor-in-chief, this was because the program planned to discuss the circumstances of the resignation statement submitted by USSR Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. In particular, clips of video material which were not included in the documentary film about Shevardnadze called "The Team" [donanda] were to have been shown on the program.

Sergey Tarasenko and Teymuraz Stepanov, aides of the former minister, were also invited to the studio. They intended to share their thoughts concerning their boss's resignation.

By the way, an interview with one of them—Teymuraz Stepanov—on this matter was published in the latest edition of KOMMERSANT. He rejects stories of collusion and a so-called Georgian trail [Gruzinskiy sled]. According to him, it was Gorbachev's friend and comrade-in-arms himself who submited his resignation.

There are at least two reasons for such an action. First of all, it was becoming increasingly difficult for Shevardnadze to work. He was playing not just without any trumps, but also without any cards. However, Teymuraz Stepanov refused to cite examples of how the minister's work was encroached upon. But he thinks that the main reason for the resignation is the fact that Eduard Shevardnadze did not see any other way to shake up the country and warn people of the danger. Frankly speaking, it is not clear from his words who specifically represents this danger, because, according to Teymuraz Stepanov, the minister had businesslike and hostile—sorry, not hostile—relations with the military.

But let's go back to the "Vzglyad" program. A conflict between its compilers and the new leadership of Gosteleradio over the program's independent course has obviously developed. But, as is known, the rule that might is right has not been abolished yet. And this obviously calls into question "Vzglyad's" existence in its present form.

'Persecution' of Programs Denied

91UN0568A Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 22 Dec 90 Second Edition

[JReport by S. Karkhanin: "Through the Fog Surrounding the Screen: Notes From the Meeting of the USSR Gosteleradio Collegium"]

[Text] Serious passions are raging behind the blue screen and the anchormen of such popular programs as ATV [Authors' Television] and ViD [View (Vzglyad) and Others] reach tens of millions of TV viewers. Several editors and directors have threatened a strike or a hunger strike. The conflict has already reached the dimensions of a scandal, but the press is still tirelessly fanning up the passions: "Action To Strangle New Publicistic Channel," "The Defeat of Those Who Wanted Independence, and With It the Freedom of Expression," "The Most Noteworthy and Truly New Program on Central Television Lately Has Been Rejected by Leadership."

The subject is the so-called Authors' Televisions that, according to LITERATURNAYA GAZETA, KOMMERSANT, ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, and NEDELYA, had been created by talented young people and now is being relentlessly repressed by the television leadership stuck in their prejudices. Now that part of the ATV rubrics have been moved from Channel No. 1 to Channel No. 2, the agitation has reached desperate pitch. Therefore the USSR Gosteleradio [State Commission on Radio and Television] Collegium correctly decided, that the situation requires a serious and comprehensive discussion.

This discussion took place at the collegium meeting, and it quickly became clear that the dramatic scheme of struggle between the creative youth and the leadership simply does not stand close scrutiny. When we look at the facts, the myth of "struggle for freedom" bursts as a soap bubble.

Here are the facts. Beginning in the new year a new, slightly different programming concept will come into effect. In accordance with this new concept, the all-Union television channel No. 1 will be devoted mostly—especially in the evening—to entertainment programming. People are tired of politics and, according to numerous letters, they no longer want to see "talking heads" everywhere as they flip from channel to channel. Therefore ATV with its extremely politicized programs, as well as other creative groups making programs of that type, will have to give up their space on Channel No. 1 in favor of films, concerts, and plays. At the same time, the best of ATV's work will have a chance of coming back to this channel.

It seems to be very clear: Nobody gets any privileges, there is an honest competition for space in the air waves. But this solution does not agree with ATV director A. Malkin or, even more important, those who use psychological pressure as a weapon against the Gosteleradio collegium.

This is a good time to remember the ruckus raised a year ago around a scheduled show of "Vzglyad" that had not been broadcast because of its poor quality. After all, do not creative young journalists fail once in a while?

Instead of looking for scapegoats, it would be useful to listen to the opinion of the television viewers who are less than happy with the program. Here is just one of letters; it was sent to Central Television by K. Daskalu from Dnepropetrovsk: "Since the time when many 'Vzglyad' anchors were elected deputies, the shows have became more hard-hitting. Everything is permeated by a good dose of anger. But anger begets anger. I think the television should contribute to equanimity between the people, to goodness. At least, this is the way it should be."

There are, however, people outside of Ostankino who want the television to feed only bitter medicines to the people, to whip up social tensions, cheap sensationalism, and political instability. A rebuke to these uninvited ATV defenders came from N. Statsenko, a representative of the Main Department of Youth Programming: "These publications harm both Authors' Television and the entire department that is responsible for it. Do not interfere in our work; we do not need all this agitation. ATV is perfectly capable of taking care of itself through the airwaves." She is supported by the chief editor A. Ponomarev: "The above mentioned publications reflect a point of view of only a small part of our collective; we do not feel that we are being 'clamped down.'"

Yes, the power of television is enormous. It can make or break a politician, or make a performer popular... So what right do the people without a keen sense of responsibility have to promote their own purely subjective positions through the conduit of state TV?

USSR Gosteleradio Chairman L. Kravchenko says:

"We feel that we cannot fill the airwaves with endless discussion that even in the parliament is not always conducted in a parliamentary manner. Quite often all they do is split our society. Political extremism should be removed; it is especially dangerous because of the television's enormous influence on the people. We should not be dragged into political arguments; our task is to help to bring about civic unity. We intend to sharply change the programming makeup in favor of entertainment programs. As to ATV, it is possible that we will put it on Channel No. 2 in a better time slot—Sunday evening. So who needs the strikes and hunger strikes? Why are we being drawn into the epicenter of this struggle? We intend to consistently implement this concept. Our personal emotions are nothing in comparison with the necessity of having modern state television that would meet the expectations of today's society."

So, the sensational ATV bubble, generously colored by printers' ink, turned out to be just that—a bubble. However, the question remains whether this was blown out of proportion by ignorance or for reasons of quite a different nature. It is known that if the picture on the screen suddenly seems to be covered with snow, it means that there is a powerful source of interference nearby. The publications concerning ATV have an excess of such snow. The discussion at the collegium had helped to melt most of it away. Hopefully, the TV viewers will appreciate it.

PRAVDA Notes Reintroduction of Christmas Holiday

PM0601171991 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 7 Jan 91 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed article: "Yet Another Holiday!"]

[Text] Only a year ago even a mention of the ancient Orthodox holiday—Christmas—could hardly have appeared on the pages of our newspaper. But philosophically speaking, everything is in a state of flux, everything is changing. Something that seemed unthinkable even yesterday is now confidently becoming part of our everyday life. Incidentally, as far as Christmas goes, this is only partially true. People have always remembered this holiday and have always marked its advent, even if only with a few kind words. This year Christmas marks the culmination, as it were, of the first week of the New Year. The day before, many people attended Sunday masses in churches, while others departed on skiing or fishing trips, the children's winter vacations continue, and some people made this holiday coincide with important family celebrations.

Judging by appearances, there are now more holidays in our country. That is good, of course. However, we must not forget about work either...

Reintroduction of Christmas Hailed

PM0601174791 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 Jan 91 Union Edition p 1

[Article by R. Armeyev: "Merry Christmas!"]

[Text] Having celebrated the arrival of the 1991st year since Christ's birth, we are now, after more than seven decades, for the first time widely marking also the great holiday itself—in any case in Russia and several other republics. For the first time our conscience has been set free by a special law. If you like, you can celebrate, go to church, or...

In my opinion, conscientious citizens, waking up on the morning of 7 January and remembering that it is a holiday, will have been at a loss of how to celebrate it. This firm, almost instinctive knowledge of our forefathers has been almost completely knocked out of the majority of Soviet people during the past seven decades. Very little has survived—the Christmas tree (changed into the New Year tree), Christmas presents (also shifted to New Year's Day), Christmas cards, and Christmas tales.

Through the centuries, popular customs and traditions grew up around Christmas, pleasant little family customs and practices, which brought joy to people from a tender

age to their last days. Alas, by giving up Christmas, we also lost our national characteristics and turned into average inhabitants of a given territory for statistical purposes. In general, this has meant impoverishment and depersonalization.

It would be wrong to believe that by reintroducing this joyful holiday in the calendar, we will soon regain all that we have lost. If only that were possible!.. Hard spiritual labor lies ahead, much will have to be done with our hands, there is much that we will have to think about anew, and learn to understand... "However, let us not despair," Patriarch Aleksiy II of Moscow and All Russia, says in his Christmas message. "Let us intensify our prayers that the spirit of hatred be eliminated from our society, that interethnic strife may subside, and that mutual understanding, peace, and the spiritual rebirth of our people be achieved..."

Merry Christmas!

Seized Objects To Be Returned to Churches

LD0401170391 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1611 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow, 4 Jan (TASS)—To render assistance to the restoration of material culture of religious organizations, the USSR Council of Ministers has decreed that from today, objects of worship confiscated on the basis of customs' decisions in cases of smuggling, as well as those turned over to the state according to other customs' decision, will be handed over to centers of religious organizations gratuitously, according to information received today.

'Soyuz' Deputies Leader Interviewed

LD0401160791 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1458 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow, 4 Jan (TASS)—The influence of the "Soyuz" deputies group has increased sharply following the Fourth Congress of USSR People's Deputies. Evidently it will set the tone in the near future in the Soviet parliament. This was stated in a conversation with a TASS correspondent by its chairman, Yuriy [Vitaliyevich] Bokhin.

About 150 members of the renewed USSR Supreme Soviet, he reported, belong to the group that he heads. Apart from that, Blokhin said that about a third of the entire deputy corps of the country is also "Soyuzovite".

He does not think that the Congress of USSR People's Deputies was a success. First and foremost because an economic agreement between the republics was not signed at it, and also because the state budget for 1991 was not adopted.

The chairman of the deputies group appraised the announcement about the retirement of USSR Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze as a "show" [spektakl]; while he received the confirmation of Gennadiy Yanayev to the post of the country's vice president "with the hope that he will complement Gorbachev with his consistency." Yuriy Vitaliyevich's attitude toward the USSR president is "contradictory". On the one hand, said the "Soyuz" chairman, one would like to believe that Gorbachev "will show decisiveness in implementing the decisions of the Congress of USSR People's Deputies." On the other hand, he "is overwhelmed with doubts about the possibility of this."

Talking about the plans of the "Soyuz" group concerning the coming sittings of the Soviet parliament, which are planned for 8 January and subsequent days, Blokhin emphasized two points: "to get acquainted with the new composition of the parliament," and also "to actively take part in reviewing the country's new budget".

'Legend' of Trade Union Subsidies Refuted

PM0401233991 Moscow TRUD in Russian 5 Jan 91 p 1

[Unattributed article entitled "Where Are Our Millions?" under the general heading: "Let Us Help the Newspaper; Current Account No. 608014 of the TRUD Publishing House, First Transactions Office of Moscow State University of the Bank for Housing and Municipal Services and Social Development Marked 'TRUD Defense Fund'"]

[Text]**The next issue of TRUD will appear only 8 January.**

The first week of the new year has elapsed, and we have already been forced to disappoint our readers: The newspaper will appear not six but five times a week.

The point is that postal workers are refusing to deliver the newspaper on their days off, and printing workers are refusing to print it, for "objective" reasons. And yet subscribers have paid money for 300, not 260 issues a year.

The editorial board is seeking a way out of the prevailing situation.

It is well known that, against a background of generally falling circulations, two central weekly newspapers—TRUD and KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA—have maintained the number of subscribers at almost last year's level. This can be taken as a fact. Explanations can be found for this—as usual, they are not unequivocal. Only we should not oversimplify this matter, still less fantasize about it. Unfortunately, certain central publications (some with a solid reputation, others as yet without one) announced with incomprehensible haste the "secret" of TRUD's success. It turns out that it is "simply" the relatively lower subscription price, which the editorial board was able to afford because its founders compensate any losses by means of million-ruble transfusions....

If only this were so.... True, a small question arises: What about previous years, with roughly identical subscription prices, when TRUD also remained the most popular daily newspaper (well ahead of the majority of its rivals)? Three, five, 10 years ago? What was it that "worked" then?

Incidentally, all sorts of things were being said about TRUD even then. The reasons for TRUD's popularity and its high circulation were very frequently discussed over a cup of coffee in journalist lobbies. Just what fairytales and legends there were about this! Whereas they obviously should have spoken of the newspaper's democraticness and its relative independence even during the stagnation times, and said that the editorial board's strategy was the social protection of the working person and the championing of the interests and rights of the weak and oppressed.

At that time, however, sundry fabrications still did not appear in the pages of the press. Now we have lived to see it.... That legend of "subsidies" for TRUD from the trade unions surfaces now here, now there. So we would like to ask these authors: Where are they, these subsidies? Show us. Why do we on the editorial board know nothing of them? We only know that subsidies are not paid to TRUD and that for years the editorial board gave up almost all its profits. Here are specific figures: Over 12 years we made a profit of 592,332,000 rubles [R]. We paid R147,277,000 into the state budget, R388,130,000 into the trade union budget, and R49 million into the construction of party printing houses. The editorial board received just R1,587,000.

Furthermore, throughout these years it was a "one-sided" game, as they say. The editorial board was left literally with kopeks. The newspaper does not have its own printing base. Until recently, let us remark in passing, the wages at TRUD were the lowest compared with the editorial boards of other major central newspapers, and our collective enjoyed considerably fewer social benefits....

Regarding material assistance during the present difficult times for the mass workers' newspaper, when monopolists are pushing up the price of paper and a publication which made a colossal profit for decades has ended up on the edge of a precipice, the editorial board's position here is also perfectly natural and open. Of course we will be grateful for material assistance—from labor collectives, trade unions, our readers. The newspaper reckons on, relies on support....

Gusev Argues Against Cancellation of Sunday Issue

PM0401232991

[Editorial Report] Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 5 January 1991 carries on page 1 a feature comprising an editorial introduction; an interview with V. Gusev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, by correspondent S. Bobrovskiy; a comment by L.M. Zhuravleva, chief of the PRAVDA Publishing House Paper Department; and a sample postcard to be sent by readers to the USSR Supreme Soviet. In addition, immediately beneath the KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA masthead, the usual legend "All-Union Daily Newspaper" and the thick line beneath it have been fractured and a question mark inserted after the word "Daily."

The feature reads as follows:

"Why Will the Next Issue of KP Not Appear Before Tuesday?

"We have not yet succeeded in ascertaining this reliably. Some people blame the lack of paper, otherse mailmen fatigue, yet others the Gosplan [State Planning Committee], even others the Council of Ministers... Meanwhile, the publishing house has told us: You can rest until Monday. But we do not want to rest, and we do not want to deceive our readers, who have paid for 300 issues of the newspaper.

"And so today we are holding a one-hour warning antistrike. It starts at 1200 hours.

"We want to work! And we will work!"

"Vladimir Gusev, Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers: 'There Are, There Have Been, and There Can Be No Reasons for Reducing the Newspaper's Periodicity'

"[Bobrovskiy] Vladimir Kuzmich, for two weeks KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA has been conducting an investigation based on a question truly worthy of Hamlet: The Soviet press, to be or not to be? The newsprint producers offer their product at a such a price that even our newspaper, one of the most profitable, is threatened with losses of 113 million rubles [R] this year. What can I say about the others? In reducing the newspaper's periodicity, reference is frequently made to the lack of paper. What is to be done?

"[Gusev] In allocating funds for paper, we proceeded from the premise that there can be no reduction of periodicity and no mockery of glasnost. Nikolay Ivanovich Ryzhkov personally saw to this. As regards KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, it is provided in full, 100 percent, with paper under the state order. You have been allocated 138,900 tonnes—based on six issues a week with a print run of up to 18.2 million copies.

"[Bobrovskiy] That is, the claim that the five-times-a-week schedule is dictated by concern for saving paper is unsubstantiated?

"[Gusev] That is unequivocal.

"[Bobrovskiy] Vladimir Kuzmich, the state order guarantees the volume of supplies, but does not guarantee reasonable prices. The sum of R1,500 a tonne is tantamount to preplanned ruin.

"[Gusev] I believe that newspapers cannot be unprofitable. They cannot be. This means an instant loss of their

independence. I myself advocated setting free prices for paper, but no freedom justifies brigandage. And so I wish to declare that prices must not rise unchecked. But if this is happening, then we, the government and government organs, must engage limiting levers. We will do this, we will carefully check all calculations and all price computations at paper combines within a week. And if the Ministry of Finance detects just such a brigandlike approach, I will be the first to campaign for a return to fixed prices.

"[Bobrovskiy] What if the Finance Ministry does not detect 'brigandage'? For the paper producers are themselves in a grave position? What then?

"[Gusev] We will seek a solution. I am sure we will find it. And in such a way as not to infringe the subscribers' interests—it would be simply dishonest to raise the price of the newspaper today or to reduce the number of issues. I believe that it is possible to find perfectly reasonable economic approaches.

"[Bobrovskiy] Vladimir Kuzmich, is it true that the Council of Ministers Presidium has adopted a decision to reduce the periodicity of newspapers to establish a unified day off for mailmen, print workers, and journalists?

"[Gusev] There is no such decision. And this is not within our competence. I repeat once again: There are no reasons for reducing the periodicity of KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA—there are and must be none."

"Yes, But..

"Opinion of L.M. Zhuravleva, chief of the PRAVDA Publishing House Paper Department:

"'Yes, the Gosplan really did allocate funds to KP for paper based on 300 issues a year. However, this still does not mean that there will be paper. Referring to the lack of raw materials, our 'partners' do not guarantee to supply more than 70 percent of what was planned. It is useless to refer to government decisions—who fulfills them now?! '"Meanwhile, we have stocks for no more than five to seven days..."'

This is followed by the specimen postcard, with this editorial introduction: "Newspapers, including ours, need readers' help. If you are prepared to do so, sign the text, glue it to a postcard so as not to cover up the stamp, and send it to the address indicated."

The text on the postcard reads as follows:

"To the USSR Supreme Soviet.

"Esteemed deputies!

"Effective today, almost all the country's central daily newspapers cease to be daily. And they include KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA.

"We have subscribed to 300 issues of KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in 1991. We handed over the money for this last year. We now learn that the newspaper's publication is being reduced by one issue a week. We consider such a step a further, hidden increase in the subscription price and a desire once again to resolve the problem at the readers' expense.

"We ask you to protect our interests.

"[Signed] KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA reader."

Television News Service To Air 'Supplement'

LD0501234191 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 2201 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Television News Service [TNS] is going out on the airwaves on Sundays at 1500 [1200 GMT]. At this time, we will show the TNS Sunday supplement.

Economic

Committee Aide on Projected Price Increases

PM0401125191 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Jan 90 Second Edition p 2

[Interview with A.N. Komin, first deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee on Prices, by own correspondent B. Pipiya; date and place not given: "USSR State Committee on Prices Warns Delays in Retail Price Reform Dangerous for Perestroyka"]

[Text] On New Year's Eve the Zhiguli VAZ-2109, made for export, cost 100,000 rubles [R] on the automobile black market in Moscow! The cost of a suckling pig reached R400 at the Central Market. People were selling vodka from car windows on Moscow's Leninskiy Prospekt. Black marketeers were taking R50 for a bottle of Stolichnaya...

The price of everything is rising—and rising virtually every day. What awaits us in the new year? Are any measures being taken to stabilize the consumer market? These and other questions by your PRAVDA correspondent were answered by A.N. Komin, first deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee on Prices.

[Pipiya] Anatoliy Nikolayevich, accept my new year greetings and permit me to ask what new year gifts the USSR State Committee on Prices has in store for Soviet people.

[Komin] People usually say nice things at the new year. As far as prices are concerned, however, it is hard to find anything to say that will make PRAVDA readers happy. But I think it is better to tell people the truth rather than put them off with a half-truth or keep quiet altogether.

Some people are of the opinion that we are now between two stools—the centralized system and the market system—and cannot make up our minds which of them to settle down on. I would put it like this: We are not sitting on any stool at all. A stool must have a minimum of three supporting legs. We do not even have one. We have

completely destroyed the old system without proposing anything to put in its place. That is why we do not have either a plan or a budget for this year. I think this is a disgrace for our country. Even capitalist countries with a market economy have centralized, planned leadership of the economy in one form or another.

Present prices are overloaded with large subsidies. They amounted to some R90 billion for the manufacture of consumer goods in 1990. Expenditure on the production and sale of output was at least 25 percent higher than the profit generated from the sale of these goods to the population. Subsidies will rise to R140-150 billion in 1991. No budget could cope with that. So we will inevitably have to increase prices.

We have already begun this work in part. As is well known, on 15 November we introduced free contractual prices for jewelery and a number of nonessential commodities. But this only accounts for approximately 6 percent of all turnover and does not affect the standard of living of the main bulk of the population.

New wholesale and purchase prices were introduced in industry on 1 January. The cost of fuel and energy resources has doubled, the price of metal has risen by 50 percent, the cost of timber and timber materials has almost doubled, and the price of machine-building products has risen by 40 percent.

[Pipiya] Anatoliy Nikolayevich, it seems very likely that the introduction of new wholesale and purchase prices will also affect retail prices...

[Komin] Let me explain: No measures will be taken to change retail prices either on 10 January, 15 January, or 20 January, with the possible exception of glass containers. A number of republics have set different prices for bottles. Moscow, for example, has begun to accept vodka bottles at 50 kopeks each. A veritable bottle war is being waged. Bottles are being transported to the capital from neighboring oblasts and smart operators in the black economy are making a fine profit on this. So the USSR State Committee on Prices is setting a new deposit rate of 50 kopeks on all types of bottles throughout the territory of the Soviet Union as of 15 January. Although 0.33-liter bottles—the kind used for Pepsi Cola—will be worth 30 kopeks.

[Pipiya] So you are assuring us that there will be no increase in retail prices for consumer goods in January. What about February and March?

[Komin] We are inevitably going to have to implement very radical measures in 1991 to improve and reform retail prices. There will be a substantial increase in the price of most consumer goods—foods, in particular.

[Pipiya] It is certainly true that price increases have been discussed for several months now. Certain trade workers and smart operators in the black market are looking forward to this hour. According to available information, they are not actually concealing goods but have long since bought them all up in expectation of pleasant news for themselves from the USSR State Committee on Prices and privatization from the Trade Ministry. The sooner reform is implemented, the sooner it will be possible to stabilize the situation in the economy and ease social tension.

[Komin] It cannot be denied that price reform is overdue by at least three years. It is now far harder to tackle. So many problems have accumulated that we have enough to keep us going for the next five years. Prices must correspond to wages, and wages must correspond to the level of labor productivity and efficiency. In short, the question of retail prices and charges—including municipal and general services, city transport, and so forth—must be resolved in tandem with wages, monetary income, and pensions. When all this becomes comparable and corresponds to prices abroad, we can start talking about a convertible ruble.

[Pipiya] Anatoliy Nikolayevich, we would still like to know when you plan to raise the prices of goods.

[Komin] The USSR State Committee on Prices believes that price reform must be carried out in the first six months of 1991.

[Pipiya] What kind of goods are going to become more expensive?

[Komin] Comestibles and noncomestibles.

[Pipiya] Will price reform affect passenger vehicles?

[Komin] Yes.

[Pipiya] What kind of price increase are we talking about?

[Komin] We are expecting an increase of 50-70 percent.

[Pipiya] What about radios and television sets?

[Komin] Roughly the same.

[Pipiya] Refrigerators and washing machines?

[Komin] Ditto.

[Pipiya] Alcohol?

[Komin] We do not believe the price of alcohol should be increased. We must simply restore the volume of output to its 1985 level, which means increasing vodka production by 35-40 percent.

[Pipiya] My last question: How does the USSR State Committee on Prices intend to implement price reform? Do you not fear obstacles from the republics?

[Komin] There are two ways we could carry out price reform. The first, in our view, would be disastrous: Spontaneously "release" all prices and let the market itself determine the cost of all types of consumer goods.

This would lead to even greater inflation and to uncontrolled processes that would do even greater damage to the economy.

The option we find acceptable is to reform from the center and with obligatory compensation, i.e. the addition of an appropriate sum to pensions, payments, allowances, and wages. Moreover, any increase in retail prices must conform with the principle that all the union republics agree. Otherwise we will completely destroy our country's entire price system. It is simply impossible to have different prices and wages and a unified ruble all at the same time. The speculation that is already sweeping our economy would take on interregional dimensions. That is why we now need order, economic discipline, and delivery discipline, more than ever before. Otherwise we could lose what we have, and the transition to a market system will be made considerably more difficult.

Power Ministry Granted New Management Rights

LD0401171191 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1540 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] The USSR Council of Ministers has adopted a decision on the specific features of managing electricity power engineering and the oil and gas industries. The Ministry of Power and Electrification has been granted the right to manage the single power system of the USSR as a single production and technological complex, and to regulate the use of the capacities of electric power stations, regardless of their location and departmental subordination. Beginning 1 January, a provisional statute for the state regulation of tariffs on electrical and thermal power has been introduced.

Increased Costs Push Up Air, Rail Fares

PM0401115191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Jan 91 Union Edition p 3

[Telephone interviews with USSR Minister of Civil Aviation B. Panyukov, USSR Deputy Minister of Railways B. Nikiforov, and USSR Deputy Minister of Railways V. Ginko by correspondents G. Alimov, I. Andreyev, and V. Belikov under rubric "IZVESTIYA on the Line to You"; date not given: "Transport: Are Fares Going To Increase?"]

[Text] The rubric "IZVESTIYA on the Line to You," familiar to regular readers of our newspaper, is back on our pages again. This time you, friends, are going to be the co-authors. All selections bearing this trademark will be based entirely on your questions. Highly informed, knowledgeable, competent people have agreed to answer you.

We are devoting the first item under this rubric to a subject that worries a great many readers: Are there going to be fare increases for the metro and air and rail transport in the new year?

USSR Minister of Civil Aviation B. Panyukov:

At the moment, we are selling tickets at the old rates until February. Obviously, there is not going to be any sudden increase in air fares at the start of the new year. On the other hand, Aeroflot's expenditure is going to rise substantially: The cost of fuel, for example, is going to go up 2.7 times and the equipment that we buy from Ministry of the Aviation Industry enterprises is going to be twice as expensive.

From being a profitable sector with an income of some 10 billion rubles [R] in 1990, air transport is going to start making a loss. In the coming year, aviators are going to be "short" of R1.5 billion needed to cover their expenditure, if you allow for the rising cost of energy, industrial goods, and spare parts. We are going to be left without the funds to develop our own enterprises and will not even have anything to pay our workers...

Obviously, air fares are going to increase in the future. But the Civil Aviation Ministry does not have the right to raise the cost of domestic and international flights. New, higher rates can only be introduced by the government.

USSR Deputy Minister of Railways B. Nikiforov:

The flat rate of 5 kopeks for travel on the metro will be retained in the New Year in Tbilisi, Baku, Yerevan, and Tashkent. The republic authorities have confirmed that they intend to use their own resources to finance metro operations in these capital cities.

The future of the metro in Russian and Ukrainian cities is causing great concern, however. The money has not yet been found to ensure that it can function normally in the new conditions. The decision to establish a 15-kopek charge from the beginning of February and cover the remaining expenditure with local budgetary resources has only been adopted by Leningrad City authorities. They are already modifying the turnstiles at metro stations.

It will take at least three months to make similar readjustments in Moscow, but it is still not at all clear here how much a single passenger fare is going to cost, how much will be charged for taking through luggage, or where the money to cover the remaining losses is going to come from. Even with a charge of 15 kopeks, these are going to be somewhere in the region of R5 million per annum. Moscow Soviet intends to turn the Moscow metro into a city organization, taking over from the Ministry of Railways. Only under these conditions will it agree to bear the cost of maintaining the metro.

USSR Deputy Minister of Railways V. Ginko:

Rail fares are definitely going to increase! But not on 1 January 1991. The USSR Council of Ministers has not yet approved our new proposed charges. This is creating considerable problems for our department. You telephoned just when my colleagues and I were racking our brains over where we are going to find the money to pay

railroad workers their wages on 15 January. Judge for yourselves: The ministry's expenditure in the coming year will amount to R30 billion, but we are already R5.8 billion short—20 percent, in other words!

It is unpleasant to have to tell people this on New Year's Eve, but fare increases cannot be avoided. Here are just a few examples illustrating how much more expensive everything is that our department needs to buy. The railroad cars we used to get from the GDR cost us R220,000 each. Now we are going to have to pay out R1 million per car. Our own plant in Tver used to sell passenger cars at R87,000, but now they cost R180,000. The electric locomotives that we have traditionally bought from Czechoslovakia will be 2-2.5 times more expensive in 1991. To say nothing of fuel, electricity, ties, and so forth...

I cannot tell you how much the new charges will be. There are several options and I do not know which will be chosen by the Council of Ministers....

USSR Lacks Funds for Foreign Trade

LD0401150391 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1253 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] The offices of the USSR Trade Ministry are now in the grip of the most veritable panic. Authoritative sources have informed us that the department's officials have not signed a single agreement for 1991 with foreign firms for the importation of any goods.

This will of course have an effect on our living standards. The reason for this is the lack of foreign currency. But the curious fact is that this year the government has allocated only one-third of foreign currency to the Ministry of Trade than last year; however, according to TASS, for a number of reasons, the ministry is actually unable to use these funds. For the time being, these reasons remain a very closely guarded secret to us. But Ministry of Trade officias ae more concerned about their own fate and the ministry's future.

Market Prices Delayed in Sverdlovsk Oblast

914D0097A Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Dec 90 Union Edition p 2

[Article by IZVESTIYA correspondent Aleksey Tarasov: "Price Increases in Oblast Postponed"]

[Text] Sverdlovsk—**The following decision was adopted by the Sverdlovsk Oblast soviet: to develop social protection of the oblast population, to approve it at the January session, to pay subsidies to residents, and only after that to introduce market prices—**

IZVESTIYA (360) has covered the heated discussion during the first days of the session's work. The proposal to introduce market prices not only disturbed the residents of the oblast but also determined the contours of the political forces whose approaches to the problem of entering the market differ in many ways. The newspaper URALSKIY RABOCHIY published an account of the appeal of the bureau of the Sverdlovsk city party committee, the first secretaries of the rayon party committees, and secretaries of the party committees of the large industrial enterprises of the Central Urals. It says, in particular, that the proposals made by the oblast executive committee for increasing retail prices for meat and dairy products evoked a reaction of alarm in the labor collectives. This appeal forced the deputies to explain again (the meeting was broadcast live on the radio) that they do not have power over prices and raising them does not depend on the will of the oblast soviet.

At the preceding session the deputies were almost unanimous in thinking that we must stop pumping millions out of the pockets of the consumers for subsidization through trade. The market demands that money be given back to the consumer. Naturally, this would mean an automatic price reduction. At the current session there were just as many differences of opinion and not just because the deputies had little experience in economics. The discussion was influenced by the speeches of directors of Sverdlovsk plants who supported the bureau of the CPSU oblast party committee]. The deputies simply did not have the time to discuss in detail the mechanism for compensation for the expenditures made by the Ural residents.

On the last day of the work of the session the deputies managed to stop the discussions on the question of price increases and make a decision on the policy of withdrawal of the state and privatization of industrial enterprises in the oblast, as well as the formation of a commission on land reform.

Statistician Summarizes 1990 Economic Figures

LD0401114691 Moscow TASS in English 1132 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow January 4 TASS—"The past year saw the beginning of an absolute decline in the scope of social production. Industrial ouput dropped almost to the level of 1988 and national income hit an even lower mark," Vadim Kirichenko, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Statistics, writes today in an article published in PRAVITELSTVENNY VESTNIK (Government Herald).

"Production shrank a particularly large amount in industrial sectors of group 'A', primarily in metallurgical and wood chemistry sectors and in the production of coal and oil.

"Stoppages in the operation of enterprises and the disorganisation of economic ties, caused by ethnic conflicts and strikes, complicated the economic situation. Over the past two years, direct losses of output due to these causes alone run at about two billion roubles.

"It must be noted that the overall political instability, which manifests itself in the inefficiency of power bodies

at all levels, in economic separatism and legal nihilism, are the increasingly important causes of the intensifying crisis in the economy.

"Endless show-downs between the centre and the republics, between legislative and executive authorities adversely affect the economy. Established economic ties are breaking up. Major causes are the depreciation of the rouble and the collapse of monetary circulation, giving an impetus to the development of a kind of internal barrier—exchanges in kind between enterprises," Kirichenko points out.

"But there are also positive changes in the economy. These are, first of all, the economic restructuring that has been launched and the enhanced social orientation of the economy. This has made it possible to somewhat enlarge the share of the production of consumer goods (group 'B') in industry and to increase the amount of national income resources earmarked for consumption," he writes.

Kirichenko blames the crisis, first of all, on the fact that the economic reform was carried out incomprehensively. An advance on one flank (starting to self-finance the development of enterprises and regions) was not backed up by vigorous actions on the other.

He believes there was an unjustified delay in such radical mesures as the introduction of a new taxation system and new principles for price formation, a lending policy to correspond to the expansion of commodity-money relations, and new conditions to stimulate the growth of production.

There was no essential headway in realising diverse managerial forms—cooperative, lease-holding, joint-stock, joint ventures with foreign capital, individual (private) operations, a market of capital goods, securities and a market infrastructure as a whole, Kirichenko maintains.

Summary of Economic Situation Countrywide

LD0501174491 Moscow Central Television Vostok Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1530 GMT 5 Jan 91

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Good evening! To start the bulletin—events in the country in brief:

Budgetary problems continue to be debated at the sessions of republican Supreme Soviets. That is today the main topic of hearings in the parliaments of Moldova and Kyrgyzstan. Official reports indicate that the overall state budget deficit last year was around 60 billion rubles. Taking account of the price rises and other factors, it is expected that this figure will have doubled by next year.

The fourth session of the USSR Supreme Soviet is to continue its work on 8 January 1991 at 1000 [0700 GMT] with the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of nationalities meeting in joint session in the hall in the Kremlin where the USSR Supreme Soviet's houses meet.

Current prices: As of today the prices of dairy proucts are to be raised in the Estonian Republic. As of today, a kilo of butter will cost nine roubles; a liter bottle of milk will be 1.14 roubles. It is also announced that coupons are being introduced in Tallinn for the purchase of manufactured goods.

By decision of the Moscow City Soviet, as of today four of the capital's markets will have special points to purchase meat from peasants—and indeed anyone else who cares to sell it—at a rate of six rubles a kilo. Aside from money, those who offer meat will receive coupons valid against nonedible goods in short supply. Well, I don't know, perhaps this will help alleviate the terrible meat problem, in particular the problem with prices in Moscow.

Some more information from the capital: the sale of apartments has been temporarily suspended in Moscow. It turns out that they are mostly bought and then sold on, particularly to foreigners, in exchange for foreign currency. It has been decided to wait for approval of the provisions on the procedure and conditions for transferring housing into private hands.

The accountants of the USSR Ministry of Railways were today able to transfer foreign currency to the Austrian, Swiss, and German railways, thus canceling out the debt. This has come about as a result of the Ministry buying dollars at the commercial rate from the USSR Vneshekonombank. It is now possible to buy tickets from Moscow to virtually any European city in rubles, although to Paris, for example, it will cost three times as much.

Agriculture

Presidential Decree on Land Reform Issued

LD0501193391 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1828 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Decree issued by USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev on 5 January on land reforms; read by announcer—from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] A decree has been issued here today by the USSR president. It states:

In order to activate the land reform; to create conditions for the effective functioning of various forms of ownership and economic management; to eliminate the monopoly of land ownership and to go over to a mixed economy in the agrarian sector; and, on this basis, to achieve a steady increase in agricultural production, I resolve:

1. The governments of the republics and the executive committees of local soviets of people's deputies are to

draw up, in the first half of 1991, an inventory of lands which are not being used in a rational manner by collective and state farms, forestry, undertakings, and other users of the land, including lands which have been made available to ministries and departments of the USSR. They are to use those lands not being used in a rational manner to create a special land fund supervised by local soviets of people's deputies in order that land may be made available to peasant farms which are being set up, to leaseholders, agricultural cooperatives, and also to citizens who wish to operate their own private allotments, build dachas, grow fruit, or engage in horticulture.

As a matter of first priority they are to seek out and allocate, as early as spring of this year, 3 million to 5 million hectares of land in order to satisfy the population's pressing requirements.

2. It is recommended that the Supreme Soviets of the republics revoke all unjustified restrictions on developing the use of land for allotments that are holding up the expansion of private plots, fruit growing, and horticulture. At an early date, and no later than a month from now, the Executive Committees of local soviets of people's deputies are to examine all the questions which arise in allocating land and are to make decisions which deal with these questions comprehensively.

3. The Supreme Soviets of the republics, kray, and oblast soviets of people's deputies are recommended to draw up, for each region, a system of state support for peasant farms and agricultural cooperatives that envisages preferential conditions and economic incentives especially during the period in which these farms and cooperatives are being formed. During the process they should proceed on the basis that peasant farms are to be allocated, without any hindrance, land which can be owned for life, bequeathed, or leased. In 1991 the USSR Government and the governments of the republics are to increase market allocations for building materials by no less than 50 percent in order to facilitate the development of peasant farms and the erection of houses and various outbuildings. To this end every republic, kray, and oblast is to draw up a program for the development of the building materials industry in order to provide the necessary materials for new building projects in the countryside.

Executive committees of soviets of people's deputies are to adopt all the measures to meet the citizens' needs for local building materials.

4. The USSR Government and the governments of the republics, during the implementation of the land reform, are to determine possible ways and forms of transforming inefficient collective and state farms into associations of peasant farms and cooperatives, and also of granting their lands to lessors, peasant farms, industrial, and other enterprises. The compulsory dissolution of collective and state farms and other agricultural enterprises is not permitted.

5. The USSR Government, in conjunction with the governments of the Union republics, is, by 1 March 1991, to draw up a system of organizational and economic measures to help attract to those rural rayons that are short of manpower, settlers from other regions, towns, and industrial centers, as well as servicemen discharged into the reserve.

6. The governments of the republics and executive committees of local soviets of people's deputies are, within one month, to examine the issue of providing industrial, construction, transport, and other enterprises with cultivable land for organizing the production of agricultural produce.

7. The Supreme Soviets of the Union republics are to be recommended to more speedily draw up and adopt in the first quarter of 1991 the land codes of the republics.

M. Gorbachev, president ot the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Moscow, Kremlin, 5 January 1991

Scientific

Salyut-7 Station To Reenter Earth Atmosphere

'Secret' Kosmos-1686 Satelite Attached

LD0401220691 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Report by commentator Petr Orlov, including remarks by Dr. Gorshkov, chief of the Orbital Station Design Department of the Energiya Scientific Production Association ; from the "Vremya" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] According to a report from the Flight Control Center, the Salyut-7 Soviet orbital station will enter the dense layers of the atmosphere in February and cease to exist. Details of the report by our commentator Petr Orlov.

[Orlov] Salyut-7 is returning, but not as planned and much earlier than expected. In 1986, when Leonid Kizim and Vladimir Solovyev flew to the new station, Mir, the Salyut-7 was transferred to a higher orbit and left there until better times and namely until Buran could return it to earth. According to the most modest estimates, Salyut could stay in orbit for another 8-10 years, but in actual fact, it has turned out to be half of that.

[Gorshkov] Since 1987, to our surprise and everyone else in the world, solar activity has increased sharply to such an extent, as far as I know, that such an increase in atmosphere density at these heights had not been registered up until then; density increased three to four times. And the station began to fall sharply.

[Orlov] And that was not due to mistakes. The same thing happened to one of our satellites and the U.S. Skylab station before that. The fact of the matter is that it is practically impossible to forecast such things. Moreover, while our satellite burned up, Skylab, weighing 80

tonnes, was not destroyed completely in the atmosphere. Nothing is simple as far as our station is concerned either, although it weighs less. The fact of the matter is that Salyut is not returning to earth alone. Another entity [obekt] is attached to it, called satellite Kosmos-1686. In fact, this is one of our largest Soviet space ships undergoing secret tests at that time. Not even all the cosmonauts have seen it. Moreover, a photograph of it has not been published anywhere. But that invisible ship weighs almost 20 tonnes. Mir station modules are now made on the basis of it. But unlike them, Kosmos has a reentry module which should not burn up in the atmosphere and did not burn up when it underwent tests, this is extremely unfortunate. However, experts look upon the forthcoming collision with the Earth rather optimistically.

[Gorshkov] There is practically no likelihood of it causing any kind of damage.

[Orlov] Today, many recalled the unique flight of Vladimir Dzhanibekov and Viktor Savinykh who revived Salyut-7 when it fell silent the first time—in 1985. But a repetition of such a thing will not happen today. There is no opportunity and mainly there are no resources. What if we were richer and were able to send a ship to save the station? And what if something were to happen to a crew today? One of the rescue cosmonauts, Vladimir Titov, is not confident that in every case they could come to the rescue of a crew. It is worth thinking about when preparing to bid farewell to the falling Salyut. Or, as already is the case, will money be allocated for space safety only when somethng falls down upon one's head?

More on Salyut-7 Return

LD0501145391 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0650 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Remarks by Leonid Alekseyevich Gorshkov, chief of the Orbital Station Design Department of the Energiya Scientific Production Association, on "the fate of the Salyut-7 orbital station" at a news conference with unidentified correspondents on 4 January; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Gorshkov] After we finished work on this station in 1986, the decision was made to raise the station's orbit to a height at which it would continue in flight, according to our assessments over a 10-20 year period. We planned to work with it using our Buran vessel. We planned very interesting experiments to see how materials behave over such a unique time. I must say that even now the station is still operational: the energy supply system is working, and the solar batteries are rotating, constantly turing toward the sun. Very interesting experiments were planned overall.

However, since 1987, to our surprise and to that of everybody in the world, solar activity has increased sharply, to such an extent—as far as I know, such an increase in atmospheric density at these heights had not been registered up until then—that density increased three to four times. The station began to fall sharply. In effect, we were unable to influence its orderly descent from orbit.

Now, according to forecasts, somewhere around the beginning of February the station will fall from orbit. Currently, one can only say that the region in which it will fall from orbit will be somewhere between 51 degrees north and 51 degrees south. We will know more details a few hours in advance. We have no fear that this could cause any damage.

[Correspondent] What is the station's mass now?

[Gorshkov] A total of 40 tonnes. It includes Salyut-7—the basic unit—and Kosmos 1669 [figure as received]. This module is the prototype of the modules we are now using.

[Correspondent, in English with superimposed Russian translation] THE NEW YORK TIMES: How big is the largest fragment which could potentially reach the Earth's surface?

[Gorshkov] About three tonnes, if any of the parts of the sections which have heat protection reach the Earth's surface. It is very difficult to say what size the other fragments will be, but we think there could be somewhere around a few dozen such fragments of up to 10 kilograms.

Considering the concern I sense in the question, I would like to say that it is known that up to tens-of-thousands of tonnes of meteorites fall every year in this belt.

To Reenter 10-11 Feb

LD0401192691 Moscow TASS in English 1852 GMT 4 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Rena Kuznetsova]

[Text] Moscow January 4 TASS—"The Soviet Salyut-7 Space Station will plunge from the near-earth orbit and burn in the dense layers of the atmosphere," Leonid Gorshkov, head of the department for orbital station design of the Energiya Science and Production Association, said at a briefing at the Soviet Foreign Ministry Press Centre today.

He expressed hope that if pieces reach the Earth's surface, they would cause no harm to people.

Gorshkov recalled that Salyut-7, which was launched into near-earth orbit in April 1982, was the last in a series of second-generation orbital stations at which long-term manned flights were made. Its use ended in 1986.

Mir, a new-generation station, is in orbit now. It hosts the crew of the main eighth expedition—Viktor Afanasyev and Musa Manarov.

According to specialists' estimates, the Salyut-7 station could have lasted several more years. The operation of the station's systems and units in space conditions was of interest to scientists and designers. There were plans to use Salyut-7 to practice the manoeuvres of the Buran shuttle.

However, solar activity has significantly increased since 1987 and the Salyut-7 station began to descend. Specialists decided it was inexpedient to "revitalise" the station.

Specialists in ballistics calculated that Salyut-7 is to enter the dense layers of the atmosphere and cease to exist between February 10 and 11 (plus-minus ten days). Fragments that do not burn up and that reach earth are no more dangerous than ordinary meteorites, Gorshkov said. The site where fragments will fall can be calculated only several hours before the fall. Gorshkov emphasised that there are no any radioactive or other harmful substances aboard the station.

Situation Not 'Out of Control'

PM0501152991 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 5 Jan 91 First Edition p 2

["Before The Event" report by M. Chernyshov: "Where Will 'Salyut' Come Down?"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] All states that launch spacecraft obviously take into account the possibility of emergencies. There is an international treaty whereby a country is responsible for damage caused to other countries by its space vehicles on the ground, in the air, or in space. The Soviet Union is a party to the treaty and all that it entails. Through the selection of orbits and by means of certain other measures, everything possible is done to prevent satellites and fragments of satellites from reaching the earth.

But it is not feasible to make an absolutely safe version. Our station is a combination of two elements—"Salyut-7" and "Kosmos-1686." The total weight is 40 tonnes and the orbiting altitude is 305-275 kilometers. There are no radioactive or other dangerous substances on board. In February the complex will increasingly make inroads into the dense layers of the atmosphere. Eventually the remains of this "meteorite" will reach the earth's surface or will scatter across the ocean. That is the general picture.

"It is perfectly clear," space flight deputy leader Viktor Blagov said, "that most of the complex will not reach the earth but will burn up in the dense layers of the atmosphere. But it includes elements which can withstand the heat. In particular, the so-called reusable vehicle, which is part of the 'Kosmos-1686' satellite-spacecraft. Although no one can say for sure in what form it will reach the earth, the likelihood of pieces coming down is not ruled out.

"At the moment we are unable to calculate the exact area where it will come down. But the situation cannot be described as out of control. The station is being constantly tracked by our facilities.

"We are being helped by U.S. tracking stations too. Generally speaking, the likely drop zone is a relatively narrow corridor 'tied' to a projection of the orbit. The exact time of the station's entering the dense layers of the atmosphere will be known 24 hours before it falls. All states will receive prompt warning of this. As the station descends, we will obtain increasingly accurate data and, in the event of a specific danger arising, there will be time left to warn the population and to take appropriate measures. It is possible to hope that all will end happily..."

Mir Crew To Take Space Walk 7 Jan

LD0401212991 Moscow World Service in English 2000 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] The crew of the Soviet orbiting station Mir have held a training session in spacesuits before a space walk. The two cosmonauts, Viktor Afanasyev and Musa Manarov, are to repair the hatch of an airlock. Mission control have announced that the walk in raw space is going to begin on Monday, 7 January, at 2000 Moscow Time. The crew have also tested the reliability of life support systems and prepared the tools they will require to carry out repairs outside the station.

'Mir' Space Mission 'Continues Smoothly'

LD0401140791 Moscow TASS in English 1256 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow January 4 TASS—The eighth main mission has completed its first month on board the Mir space station.

Under the flight programme, Viktor Afanasyev and Musa Manarov continue preparations for a space walk, scheduled for January 7.

They checked the operation of the life-support systems and communications gear in spacesuits and prepared equipment to work on the outside surface of the station. The cosmonauts underwent a medical check-up on Thursday .

The crew today plans to re-check the airlock system of the Kvant-2 module and train in spacesuits.

According to the research schedule, the cosmonauts will conduct several experiments to study flows of high energy charged particles in near-earth space.

The mission continues smoothly. The cosmonauts feel well.

Mir Crew to Repair Module Hatch

LD0601122591 Moscow TASS in English 1203 GMT 6 Jan 91

[by TASS correspondent Rena Kuznetsova]

[Text] Moscow January 6 TASS—Soviet cosmonauts Viktor Afanasyev and Musa Manarov, who work on board the Soviet orbital complex Mir, are expected to have a space walk on Monday.

According to preliminary estimates, this will happen at 19.47 Moscow time.

The main aim of the space walk will be to repair the lid of the outer hatch of the Kvant-2 module which is part of the orbital complex. Malfunctions developed during a space walk of members of the sixth main expedition, Anatoliy Solovyov and Aleksandr Balandin, in July last year. Solovyov and Balandin worked on board the station from February to August 1990.

Their successors, Gennadiy Manakov and Gennadiy Strekalov, did not manage to correct the malfunction either. They completed their flight at the end of last year.

The present crew have been working in orbit for the second month. It is planned that they will have four space walks. Extravehicular activity (EVA) has become usual for the Mir crews. EVA was prompted first of all by the need to take care of the huge orbital complex.

Suffice it to recall that the crew of the fifth main expedition on board the Mir complex—Aleksandr Viktorenko and Aleksandr Serebrov—for the first time tested the cosmonaut transformation facility in open space. This was first done by Serebrov on February 1, 1990. The maximum distance from the exit hatch was 33 metres.

Mission commander Viktorenko continued the tests of the facility on February 5, getting away from the station at a distance of 45 metres.

Chernobyl Plant Director on Planned Shutdown

LD0401121591

[Editorial Report] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 0900 GMT on 4 January carries a five-minute interview with (Mikhail Panteleyvich Umanets), director of the Chernobyl nuclear electric power station [AES]. (Umanets) sums up measures taken since the April 1986 accident to enhance the safety of the AES: plant personnel have been "almost fully" replaced; the new personnel received two and a half years of training; and a government oversight commission has been set up by the Ukrainian and USSR Supreme Soviets.

"At present this commission is considering the concept of shutting down the Chernobyl AES," (Umanets) says. "The general outlines of this concept have already been designated, and the deadlines for shutting down each reactor have been set. The first block is to be shut down in the second half of 1993; the second reactor in 1994; and the shutting down of the third one is scheduled for 1995."

Speaking about the adequacy of the sarcophagus encasing the damaged fourth reactor, (Umanets) says that many tests relating to nuclear safety and the structural stability of the reactor have been carried out. The tests have shown that "at present the existing casing is not hermetically sealed. And therefore there are suspicions that if any damage occurs inside the casing in the old structures off the fourth reactor, there may be a radioactive leak." (Umanets) quickly adds: "Nothing like the one that happened that April, of course; but it may complicate the radioactive picture very badly." At present, he says, "over the existing casing, a second one—stable and air-tight—is being built. It will have good monitoring equipment and is designed to last for hundreds of years."

The overall performance of the AES is unsatisfactory, according to (Umanets). This year, for example, it has generated about 16.5 billion kwh of energy; and this is not a lot, (Umanets) says, considering that the annual designed capacity for this type of reactor is about 21 billion. "Our economic situation is very serious," (Umanets) concludes.

Military

Moiseyev Says No Additional Troops in Baltics

LD0401140591 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1242 GMT 4 Jan 91

[By correspondent Oleg Moskovskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 4 Jan (TASS)—"Not a single additional soldier will be sent to the Baltic republics. We may even consider reducing the contingent of troops stationed there," Army General Mikhail Moiseyev, chief of the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces, has stated. He gave an interview today to a TASS correspondent concerning the meeting he held yesterday with Anatoliy Gorbunov, chairman of the Latvian Supreme Soviet.

According to Mikhail Moiseyev, in the course of the conversation with the head of the Latvian legislature, under discussion were 15 questions concerning mutual interests of Latvia and the Ministry of Defense in that region. "We have reached the unanimous conclusion that it is necessary to set up a working group at the USSR Ministry of Defense for establishing contacts with the Latvian legislators," Mikhail Moiseyev noted. He added that the working group could consider all the issues in question concerning the military aspects of all regions.

In the view of the general, he and Anatoliy Gorbunov have reached agreement on the exchange of information by republican leaders and the Armed Forces General Staff. "We are ready to meet the Latvian authorities half way by letting them have certain information on the stationing of troops in the Baltic republics, the location of military sites, and forthcoming exercises."

General Moiseyev told Anatoliy Gorbunov that the Latvian laws on military service differ considerably from the USSR draft law published in the Soviet press on

general military duty and military service. "The autumn conscription for the USSR Armed Forces in Latvia has practically been wrecked and is only at six percent of the plan. The republican law on military service has too many loopholes enabling people to avoid it," concluded General Moiseyev.

KGB Reportedly Increasing Command Over Army

LD0601094391 Berlin Deutschlandsender-Kultur Network in German 0900 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] The Soviet secret service, the KGB, is increasingly bringing regular army units under its command, according to today's DRESDNER MORGENPOST. Quoting Soviet military circles, the paper reports that mainly regiments which were based in the former GDR were put under it. The units controlled by the KGB were mainly stationed in the Moscow military district after their withdrawal.

Troops' Families Threatened by Ethnic Discord

LD0301173291 Moscow World Service in English 1600 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Text] Interethnic clashes in the Northern Caucasus and Transcaucasia continue.

This has been reported by the chief of the department of Interior Ministry Troops, General Kulikov. He said that the number of killed and wounded in Nagorno-Karabakh is growing every month. There are seats of interethnic discord in Georgia. The political forces in power there have not effectively stabilized the situation.

According to the general, the outburst of nationalism and separatism makes it difficult even to suggest talks on reconciliation between the conflicting sides. Kulikov said Interior Ministry troops are more and more often getting anonymous threats that their families may become hostages if the situation worsens.

Commander Describes Black Sea Fleet Mission

LD0501235691 Moscow World Service in English 2110 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Excerpts] The Soviet Black Sea Fleet is smaller than the country's Northern or Pacific fleets but this doesn't mean that it faces less important tasks. What is the Black Sea Fleet like now when the Soviet Armed Forces are being reduced? This question from our military affairs observer, First Rank Naval Captain Aleksandr Yakovlev, is answered by the Fleet Commander Admiral Mikhail Khronopulo.

What are the new tasks of the Black Sea Fleet in the present conditions when a defensive naval doctrine is being (?realised), said the fleet commander. Actually, as before, the tasks lie in defending the country and ensuring its security from the south, from the Mediterranean. [passage omitted on proximity of Mediterranean to ussr]

I believe that to ensure military and political stability in the area, it is necessary to have a better (?weighted) approach, desirably at a lower level. We are prepared to and are already reducing the level of our (?constant naval presence) in the Mediterranean. It's up to our partners (?to have) the situation stabilized.

We've considerably reduced the intensity of (?sailings) of our ships for combat service, said the commander of the Black Sea Fleet. [words indistinct] holding the exercises since 1985, and naturally, we would like to see positive actions in response from the navies of the United States and other NATO countries.

We've withdrawn from the Black Sea Fleet, said the commander, nearly all artillery cruisers, destroyers, and submarines of a number of models as well as some other ships. Even several task forces of ships have been reduced. It's natural that we're getting rid of old (?surface) ships and submarines, however, this doesn't mean that the reduced vessels, if need be, could not get a second lease of life. For instance, American battleships have rejoined the United States Navy after 40 years.

The Black Sea Fleet commander noted changes in operational, tactical and combat training of the Fleet. He said the changes, in there essence, are to prevent a drop in the necessary level of combat readiness.

Admiral Khronopulo called (?hopeful) the relations between sailors of the Black Sea Fleet and those of the navies of other countries, including NATO countries. We plan, he said, further meetings in areas of anchorage of ships, (word indistinct) business calls and mutual visits, and we may hold joint events, for instance sports contests. [passage omitted]

Baltic Republics

Landsbergis: Lithuania Should 'Capitulate'

LD0401192991 Moscow TASS in English 1849 GMT 4 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Sergey Neshumov]

[Text] Oslo January 4 TASS—"Lithuania should capitulate to Moscow because it appears to be in isolation," Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis said at a news conference in the Norwegian capital today, where he arrived to attend the international conference "New Europe."

Landsbergis said Lithuania has failed to enlist Western countries' serious support and that Lithuanian parliamentarians hold discordant views concerning talks with the central Soviet Government. "Already there is speculation about the need to change the delegation's composition or remove Landsbergis," the Lithuanian president said.

Assessing the possibility of signing a Union economic agreement by Lithuania, Landsbergis emphasised that it has a political meaning, which is difficult to accept.

In Landsbergis's view, Western countries should lend support to Lithuania. He called upon North European countries to support the Icelandic parliament's initiative for a meeting between the Soviet president and Lithuanian leaders in Reykjavik.

Views Latvian Press House Takeover

LD0501134191 Vilnius Domestic Service in Lithuanian 1000 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Lithuanian Supreme Council Chairman Vytautus Landsbergis's visit to Norway ended yesterday with a news conference. Vytautus Landsbergis is enroute home today, via Riga, and is expected to stop in the Latvian capital.

While in Oslo, Vytautus Landsbergis was asked by a VOA correspondent to evaluate recent events in Latvia and Lithuania. His reply follows:

[Begin Landsbergis recording] I explained this situation to government people and correspondents here as a new provocation, as well as an escalation of activities in Lithuania and Latvia. It is new insofar as it was renewed, since we already experienced that, last spring and during the blockade, when our press building was being attacked and other buildings were being partially occupied. Now, apparently, unable to think up anything new, they continue similar actions, but perhaps some greater goal exists once again. One very obvious goal is to demonstrate their nonpunishability and to demonstrate that the Soviet Army is the real authority in Lithuania and Latvia, which does what it wishes, thus depressing the people's consciousness and mood. Another goal may involve the wish to provoke resistance; more often than not, we can ask: Has there been [word indistinct] or has someone made use of weapons or not?

Understandably, such a characteristic of these actions inciting [word indistinct] is expected, and the Soviets will attempt to use this as a matter of fact. I have the opportunity to explain this here. They seek to [word indistinct] some sort of confrontation. Of course, such a target as the press building is related to the existence of the press. We protected it then, but the Latvians have now lost their newspaper printing capability. Moreover, those in Latvia who explain that the local Communist Party is to blame are providing a greatly oversimplified and unintelligent explanation since this local Communist Party only serves as a cover, just the same as it does in Lithuania. In Lithuania, this is openly stated as it [word indistinct] is useful that they are carrying out President Gorbachev's directive. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Lauds U.S. Stance on Baltic Events

LD0401232391 Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2200 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Excerpts] [Announcer Edvinas Butkus] Lithuanian Supreme Council Chairman Vytautas Landsbergis observed that the United States is more accurately evaluating and more correctly labeling the Kremlin's responsibility, by expressing its opinion on military actions in Riga and Vilnius.

As is known, a U.S. official, Richard Boucher, State Department spokesman, called the actions provocative and expressed his concern about them. [passage omitted]

Vytautas Landsbergis, who is presently on a visit to Oslo, stated in an interview with the VOA Lithuanian broadcast correspondent, that a firmer statement and a more defined position is always desirable. It is now clearer than it was several months ago, however. In other words, the United States is arriving at certain conclusions which stem from Soviet behavior and especially from the changes that have taken place in the country's leadership.

In Vytautas Landsbergis' opinion the pro-Moscow Communist parties constitute only a cover in these incidents.

Meets Norwegian Leader in Oslo

LD0501115391 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0930 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Lithuanian Supreme Soviet Chairman Landsbergis held talks with Norwegian Prime Minister Brundtland and Foreign Minister Stoltenberg in Oslo. It was announced after the meeting that the countries of northern Europe would open information missions in the Baltic republics.

Lithuania To Increase Basic Food Prices 7 Jan

LD0701102991 Moscow TASS in English 1007 GMT 7 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Kazis Uscila]

[Text] Vilnius January 7 TASS—Food retail prices increased by two to three times in Lithuania today with some items priced up to five hundred per cent higher.

Price increases on food and consumer goods had been expected for a long time. However, on December 29, the Lithuanian parliament decided to postpone the price reform proposed by the republican government.

The decision was made because "the government failed to present a specific economic programme and elaborate the mechanism of price reform and compensation for extra spending incurred by the population in connection with price rises".

A statement by the Lithuanian Government published here on Sunday says that the increase in food prices was "caused by the increase in prices on the means of production", due to which delays in raising prices causes daily losses amounting to seven million roubles.

The government said that wages of people employed at state institutions were to be increased from two to two and a half times, and that allowances would be paid to low-paid categories of workers and people who need social protection.

Controversy Over Lithuanian Direct Rule Law

LD0601091891 Moscow TASS in English 0905 GMT 6 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Kazys Uscila]

[Text] Vilnius January 6 TASS—The self-government council will be dissolved, all leading officials elected or appointed by the council will be relieved of their duties, and the laws on local self-government will be suspended. A government-appointed commissioner begins to perform all these functions.

Such is the outline of a mechanism for the start of the enactment of the law, adopted by the Lithuanian Parliament on December 27, 1990, "On Direct Rule over Administrative-Territorial Units."

The adoption of the law, as was to be expected, was not easy. The bill gave rise to sharp, most contradictory judgements. Parliament deputies that are members of the Polish group in parliament urged it not to adopt the bill which, they believe, obviously pursues the aim of clamping down on areas that uphold the idea of Polish autonomy.

When matters reached the voting stage, these deputies walked out of the conference hall as a token of protest.

And still, the bill received the necessary majority of votes to become a law. Thereby the parliament acquires the right "to introduce direct rule over the territories of appopriate self-governing units for a term of up to one year." Provision is also made for the right "to extend the term if necessary."

The law stipulates that, in the event of dissolution of the local council of a territory, a government-appointed commissioner is granted practically unlimited powers.

"At this moment, such a law is totally unnecessary. We all have already suffered too much from totalitarianism and this law again opens the way to it," said Ceslovas Okincyc, deputy to the republican parliament.

A number of other deputies view the law as a measure aimed at limiting democracy and a desire to establish influence over those who are not inclined to unquestioningly obey laws and acts which are adopted by the republican ledership and are far from being always well-considered and irreproachable.

Zenonas Junkniavicius, deputy chairman of the republical parliament's standing commission on the legal system problems, is of a different opinion.

He believes that the law is not directed against the areas of eastern Lithuania and that it only pursues the aim of "barring anarchy's way." At the same time he said: "It is necessary that the self-government agencies of all cities and districts know what will happen if they do not want to obey the laws of the Lithuanian Republic of their own accord."

Speakers from various rostrums and writers of articles in Lithuanian publications quite often maintain how undemocratic and anti-humane a direct rule would be if introduced with regard to Lithuania. But when the Lithuanian parliament itself envisages this, then, it turns out, everything is okay.

IZVESTIYA Details Vilnius, Riga Incidents

PM0401171991 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Jan 91 Union Edition p 1

[Correspondent and agency reports from Vilnius, Riga, and Moscow under general headline: "So Who Did Give the Order? Subunits of USSR MVD Take Party Property Under Their Protection"]

[Text] Nikolay Lashkevich reports from Vilnius:

On 1 January workers from the republic's law-enforcement organs, who, along with servicemen from USSR internal forces subunits (under the so-called dual internal protection system), had been protecting the premises of the Institute of the History of the Lithuanian Communist Party, were removed from their posts. Full responsibility for protecting the building has been assumed by a subunit of the USSR MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs].

A similar operation was carried out the next day at a building belonging to two parties—the Lithuanian Communist Party (formerly the Lithuanian Communist Party-CPSU) and the Democratic Workers Party of Lithuania (formerly the independent Lithuanian Communist Party). Not even M. Misiukonis, the Lithuanian minister of internal affairs, was allowed into the building. Officials of the Democratic Workers Party of Lithuania apparatus were granted entry only after their documents had been thoroughly checked. Such a "changing of the guard" provoked an immediate and negative reaction from the official authorities and the republic's media.

So how can this introduction of a new protection regime be explained? Whose orders are being carried out by the subunit of the USSR MVD? Is this a repeat of events six months ago when party buildings were put under the protection of assault forces? As readers will recall, the building was subsequently placed under the jurisdiction of the Lithuanian Communist Party (CPSU). A. Naudzhyunas, secretary of the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee, gave the necessary explanations.

"The decision on protecting the building," he said "was made by the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee because we are the rightful heirs to CPSU property and we are obliged to protect party property from possible encroachment, which is becoming a reality because of the republic law on political parties. According to this document, we are in fact in an illegal position, so it was decided to conclude a protection treaty with the USSR MVD subunit. There can be none of this dual protection. The Democratic Workers Party of Lithuania has lost the right to this property, but they will not be forcibly removed by us. We intend to lease part of our property to that party. The Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee building is not a public courtyard. There can only be one proprietor. We are acting within the framework of USSR laws and the corresponding USSR presidential decrees."

Therefore the following is clear. First, judging by A. Naudzhyunas' announcement, no orders were issued by the USSR MVD. This was confirmed by information from Latvian radio on the analogous activities by the military who seized Press House in Riga. This information stated that B. Pugo, USSR minister of internal affairs, told the enquiry that he had not given any orders to introduce a special regime to protect the building.

So who did the troops take their orders from?

BALTFAX news agency reports from Riga—A meeting was held outside the Latvian Communist Party Central Committee building in Riga 2 January in protest against the occupation of Press House by a special forces subunit.

The meeting was organized by the Latvian People's Front. Thousands of people (over 20,000 according to some estimates) took part in the meeting. As the BALTFAX correspondent reports, the demonstrators perceived the seizure of Press House as a "provocation" organized by the Latvian Communist Party Central Committee leadership."

In his address to the meeting Dainis Ivans, Latvian Supreme Soviet chairman, pronounced this act unlawful and announced that papers will now be printed in other publishing houses around the republic. He also read out a statement by the Latvian legislature which contains a demand for the withdrawal of the special forces units from Press House. Otherwise, the Latvian Communist Party, which organized this action, will be banned and declared illegal.

A resolution stating that work cannot possibly be continued "under the barrels of submachine guns" was adopted at a meeting of journalists and print workers in Press House. Calls for a strike were voiced at the meeting.

Our correspondent has reported that shots were heard in downtown Riga Wednesday [2 January]. Latvian MVD spokesman Yuriy Kuzin told BALTFAX that the special forces detail guarding Press House had opened fire with the aim of stopping a minibus which it deemed "suspicious." Three passengers in the minibus were arrested but later released. The Latvian Prosecutor's Office has begun an investigation into the incident.

According to certain information, the minibus belonged to the Latvian MVD and was on its way to Press House.

Viktor Remizov reports from Moscow:

V. Dubinyak, deputy commander of the USSR MVD Internal Security Forces, was contacted by the editorial office but refused to comment on the situation over the telephone.

We managed to find out that a special militia unit [OMON] guarded the Press House building in Riga previously. The new year merely saw an increase in the number of special militia charged with that duty. Experts are also suggesting that no one from the USSR MVD issued any order on this score.

At the USSR MVD press center our correspondent was told: Highly contradictory information is coming in from Riga which does not correspond with what is known by the USSR MVD. A representative of the internal forces command has flown to the area to clarify the situation.

Workers Abandon 'Besieged' Riga Press Building

LD0401170591 Stockholm Domestic Service in Swedish 1545 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] In Latvia today, journalists and printing workers are abandoning the besieged press building in Riga. At a big meeting a couple of hours ago, the employees decided to give up the building to the Communist Party, in order to continue working in other buildings.

[Begin correspondent Christina Gustafsson recording] The Communist party in Riga has now won the struggle for the press building, but it will be an empty building they are taking over. The employees have decided to leave the building on the shore of the Daugava River after it was surrounded by special Soviet troops three days ago. The special troops are still in the building. They are behaving in an aggressive manner and are carefully examining everyone's bags and cases before allowing them to leave the building. They obviously believe the employees would steal equipment. When I wanted to go out with all my recording equipment, they became very indignant. Only when they heard that I was a foreigner did they let me pass.

The 22-story press building housed 1,500 journalists working for 15 newspapers in Latvia. The printers in the press building immediately went on strike following the siege; and the printing works—very modern for Soviet conditions—cannot be operated now, so that the Communist Party's own papers cannot be printed, nor any Latvian papers. So even if the Communist Party has gained victory, the consequence is that the press building cannot now be used at all, at least not before new printing workers have been found.

During the past week the number of soldiers of the special unit, called Black Berets, has been increased ten-fold in Riga. They now number 1,500 and are also guarding, apart from the press building, the Communist Party's (?education) building and the Soviet prosecutor's office. The large number of Black Berets worried the Riga inhabitants today. The Black Berets obviously receive orders directly from the pro-Moscow Communist Party and are thus entirely ignoring the parliament elected by the people.

(Janis Osovs), head of Latvian Radio, tells "Echo" [radio program] that the next step may very well be a siege of the radio and television building in Riga. In that case, the Communist Party would again rule all media in Riga.

Christina Gustafsson, reporting from Riga. [end recording]

Latvian Communist Party Statement on Incidents

LD0401142591 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1255 GMT 4 Jan 91

[By correspondent Valeriy Zaytsev]

[Text] Riga, 4 Jan (TASS)— In connection with the conflict situation that has arisen on the first day of the new year around the party publishing house, the Bureau of the Latvian Communist Party Central Committee has made a statement today stressing that "the organs of the mass media and leading officials of the republic have launched a campaign to misinform the public about the Latvian publishing house of the CPSU Central Committee."

As reported, in spring last year the leadership of the republic decided to nationalize the publishing house of the Central Committee of the Latvian Communist Party, having handed it over to Latvian ownership. That is the decision the Directorate for the Affairs of the CPSU Central Committee, the owner's representative, did not agree with.

A new director has been appointed at the party publishing house, and on the first working day in 1991 measures were adopted to protect the property and to ensure the operation of work at the publishing house.

The Latvian publishing house of the CPSU Central Committee, together with its buildings, equipment, and assets, is the exclusive property of the Communist Party, the statement says. In accordance with legislation, the Latvian Communist Party Central Committee, on instructions of the CPSU Central Committee, "carries out operational control over all-party property and will oppose any attempts to unlawfully restrict the fulfilment of these functions."

As noted in the statement, "the right of an owner to possess, make use of, and dispose of property belonging to him at his own discretion is protected against any unlawful encroachments by a clause of the USSR Constitution of 12 October 1990 'On Measures To Protect the Inviolability of the Right of Ownership in the USSR,' on the basis of which no acts of the bodies of state power and administration of the republic, connected with the unlawful confiscation of property belonging to the party, can be executed, but actions implementing such acts must be terminated."

The Communist Party Central Committee and the directors of the Latvian publishing house of the CPSU Central Committee appointed by it, the statement points out "guarantee to all interested editorial teams of newspapers, magazines, and other publications cooperation in publishing activities and recommends that they submit their proposals for the conclusion of corresponding treaties on mutually acceptable conditions for 1991."

The government of the republic has adopted a decision on the publication of republican newspapers in other printing houses which are older and of smaller capacity than in the party publishing house. Today newspapers did not come out in Latvia for the second day running.

Latvian Supreme Soviet Sends Letter to Gorbachev

LD0401183591 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1750 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] Riga, 4 Jan (TASS)—Latvia's legislature and government once again express their readiness to start talks with the USSR president and the Soviet Union's leadership on relations between the USSR and the Latvian Republic and also on the status of USSR Armed Forces on Latvian territory, says a letter by Dajnis Ivans, first deputy chairman of the Latvian Supreme Soviet, to the USSR president, which was circulated here.

The letter outlines the viewpoint of the Latvian Supreme Soviet's leadership concerning the conflict that has arisen during the first days of this year around the Latvian Publishing House of the CPSU Central Committee, after measures for protecting the Communist Party's property were taken. Dajnis Ivans asserts that "because of the illegal actions carried out by some of the Interior Ministry troops, who have forcibly seized the building of the Publishing House," the publication of Latvian and USSR newspapers and magazines has been stopped in the republic. He reported that the Latvian Supreme Soviet considers these actions to be "a terrorist act," and the text of the Latvian parliament's decision on this issue has been sent to the USSR president.

Latvian Officials Comment on Press House Seizure

LD0401231291 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Report by correspondent N. Kasyanova, including remarks by Latvian Communist Party Central Committee Secretary V.F. Romashevskiy and Latvian Council of Ministers First Deputy Chairman I. Bisers; from the "Vremya" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] For the third day now newspapers and magazines have not been published in Latvia. Press House in Riga, where all the main publishing houses are accommodated, is under reinforced guard by a detachment of special purpose miliita.

[Kasyanova] Turbulent open-air meetings have been held in Riga by the Latvian People's Front and by Interfront which have been putting forward opposing demands. Once again the existence of two opposing forces in the republic has appeared. Alas, the passions engendered by such meetings have as yet not solved a single tightly drawn knot of problems, including this protracted dispute about the ownership of Press House.

[Romashevskiy] The Latvian publishing house of the CPSU Central Committee is the property of the CPSU, and the decision of the republic's Council of Ministers on the organization of an association on the basis of someone else's publishng house was improperly adopted. In effect, the decision of the Council of Ministers nationalized the building of the CPSU Central Committee's publishing house. The decision that was adopted was a unilateral one by the Council of Ministers without consent for such a decision by the CPSU Central Committee, as the owner, and by the Latvian Communist Party Central Committee, as the manager of this property on Latvian territory.

It is for this reason that there were appeals against this decision by the CPSU Central Committee and by Comrade Ryzhkov. There really was an appeal against it too by the decision or decree of the president on property. However Ryzhkov's proposal on this matter was not carried out. Nor is the president's decision being carried out.

Well, naturally, in order to preserve its property the party has been forced to embark on extreme measures.

[Bisers] Press House has already become a joint-stock company. Fifty-one percent belongs to the collective, which to all intents and purposes created all this property, and 25 percent each [as heard] belongs to the Council of Ministers and the CPSU, which also involved their funds and potential in the creation of this. We consider this as fair. If there are disputes, they need to be settled at the negotiating table and not by means of force.

[Announcer] A statement by the Buro of the Latvian Communist Party says that the actions of the republic's government, which has embarked on the path of seizing others' property, are of a political nature.

No Newspapers Appear in Riga; Strike Continues

LD0401131891 Moscow World Service in English 1200 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] Newspapers and magazines have once again failed to come out in the Latvian capital, Riga. The printers and journalists of the local publishing house belonging to the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist party continue their strike.

It refused to comply with the instructions of a task force of the USSR Interior Ministry which has taken over the press house in accordance with the presidential decree on protecting the property of the Soviet Communist Party.

Meanwhile, those employed at the press house declared it a joint stock company and acquired shares.

Latvia's interior minister, Mr. Aloizs Vaznis, has qualified that action of the military as unlawful. However, he expressed hope that the conflict would be settled through talks.

A special commission of the USSR Interior Ministry is reported to have arrived in Riga.

Latvia Introduces 'Unhindered' Currency Trade

LD0401153391 Moscow TASS in English 1507 GMT 4 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Galina Kuchina]

[Text] Riga January 4 TASS—The buying and selling of foreign currency has been taking place unhindered in Latvia since January 1. Every legal and physical entity in the republic is now allowed to own currency, reads a resolution by the Latvian parliament.

The resolution allows enterprises to pay part of wages in dollars, marks and other foreign currency. Before this, they should pay a sum to the state.

The measure was designed to replenish the republic's financial resources. Latvia's export potential amounts to some 130 million currency roubles, while demand

reaches 750 million plus additional expenses on imported goods, grain and fuel, said Ari Zivert, deputy head of the Latvian Government's Foreign Economic Relations Department.

"The centre should pay currency deductions for conveying transit goods via Latvian territory and ports," Zivert said. He said this "could cost 300-400 million currency roubles".

"We should try to reach partial currency payments for goods exported from the Soviet Union, if imported raw materials are used for their production," Zivert said. He suggested that foreign investments in the Latvian industry be radically increased. Laws and taxes should stimulate exports, Zivert said.

Although the resolution on the creation of a currency market has gone into effect, exchange operations have not begun. Preparatory work continues to open special offices and exchanges. Enterprises will have to draw up a number of documents and purchase a licence at the Latvian Bank.

The exchange rate will depend only on demand and will constantly change. The sources of currency will not be clarified during its free sale. But the certificate issued to the purchaser will not be permission to export money.

According to experts, parallel use of various currency units will weaken the rouble. They believe people will try to accumulate hard currency, and this will diminish its amount on the market.

A situation may emerge when dollars would be moved to other republics. Observers believe that it is hard to forecast the consequences of free currency trade, but they say the process can be controlled and adjusted.

There still exists an article in Latvian legislation envisaging imprisonment for infringing the rules of currency operations. People involved in currency trade will remain criminals for some time, but lawyers believe that the article will be canceled within a few months.

Statement Protests Price Increases in Latvia

PM0401165391 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 3 Jan 91 First Edition p 1

[Unidentified TASS correspondent report: "Protest Declared—Defending Their Rights"]

[Text] A joint statement by a number of Latvian sociopolitical and public organizations and people's deputies has been dictated by alarm at the deteriorating situation faced by thousands of inhabitants of the republic.

From 3 January 1991 the Latvian Government is increasing retail prices three to 3.2 times on basic groups of food commodities—bread, meat, and milk—by withdrawing state subsidies from them, this document says. It has been adopted by the Latvian Communist Party Central Committee, the All-Latvian Committee for Public Salvation, the United Council of Labor Collectives, the republic council of the International Front of the Working People of the Latvian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic], the Union of Baltic Region Servicemen, the "Equal Rights" faction of the republic Supreme Soviet, and other organizations.

Not having an integrated social program based on increasing labor productivity, the government is embarking on a new attack on the population's living standards and the social achievements of the working people, the statement stresses. All this is being done without fixing a minimum consumer budget or indexing incomes to rising retail prices. As a result, rising living costs for the Latvian population are imposing a heavy burden on the shoulders of the working people.

The government plans to pay compensation for the price rises out of budget appropriations only to those who work in establishments funded from the budget, and also students, nonworking pensioners, and mothers with children, the authors of the statement report. The Council of Ministers proposes that employees of economically accountable enterprises and organizations be paid compensation from their wage funds.

In adopting this voluntarist decision to make labor collectives pay compensation at their own expense, the government is grossly encroaching on their rights to dispose of their wage funds, it is further noted. In the republic's industries alone more than 300 million rubles [R] a year will have to be exacted from labor collectives to pay workers compensation. Significant funds to pay for increased prices on food products must also be assigned by collectives of the agro-industrial complex, the construction and transport industries, and other sectors of material production. However, many enterprises do not have the potential to do this, since even as it is they are being cleaned out by the tough tax system envisaged by the bills on taxation adopted by the Latvian Supreme Soviet. Thirty-seven percent of the wage funds existing in labor collectives is taken by social taxes alone.

The government is not reckoning with the fact that the monetary compensation being introduced will inevitably entail an increase in manufacturing output costs and cause price rises on consumer goods produced by enterprises. In the final analysis the proposed mechanism for compensation is nothing less than a camouflaged additional price rise on a wide range of industrial consumer goods in daily demand. All this is the consequence of the separatist course toward economic isolation pursued by the republic government and its refusal to participate in the implementation of a single USSR budget, taxation, and price policy.

In these circumstances the government is endeavoring by any means to exact funds in connection with the lifting of subsidies to the producers of agricultural produce, which have been allocated every year to the republic from the union budget to the tune of R1.2 billion.

Lowering the population's living standards, laying the entire burden of the price rises on its shoulders, the republic government is at the same time increasing expenditure on the funding of institutions of state power and administration, providing for R65 million in the budget for 1991 for these purposes, which is more than four times more than the previous year, the statement points out.

The creation of an "independent" ministry of internal affairs has required grants of R135.5 million from the budget. Formerly this ministry was mostly funded from the Union budget. In addition, provision has been made for almost R42 million to be reserved to set up a "Latvian security service" and R700,000 to fund volunteer militias. Large funds are required to staff border and customs departments and for the planned development of borders.

This government policy cannot be qualified other than as anti-people; it will lead to a sharp increase in political and social tension and to unpredictable consequences, the statement concludes.

Expressing the will of the labor collectives of enterprises, organizations, and institions, of pensioners, scholars and students, servicemen, and many voters, the document says, we declare a resolute protest and demand a halt to the increases in retail prices for food commodities proposed by the republic government, along with the unfair system of compensation that is being introduced. Transition to a market economy can be achieved and the crisis situation in the republic overcome only through implementing the measures proposed by the country's President, M.S. Gorbachev, and adopted by the Fourth Congress of USSR People's Deputies.

In the event of these proposals' being ignored, the authors of the statement write, we reserve the right to adopt measures aimed at securing the resignation of the republic government, which is pursuing an antipeople policy. We are forced to appeal to the USSR president and the USSR Supreme Soviet, demanding that they defend the rights and vital interests of USSR citizens and prohibit the entry into force of the republic government's resolution increasing retail prices for food products.

Estonia Issues Statement on USSR 'Interference'

LD0401175991 Tallinn Domestic Service in Estonian 1800 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Statement issued by the Supreme Soviet Presidium of the Republic of Estonia, following its 3 January session held in Tallinn]

[Text] The Supreme Soviet presidium of the Republic of Estonia observes the events in Latvia and Lithuania with increasing concern. The forced interference by the USSR Armed Forces' in the political life of our neighboring states has been abruptly extended over the past few days. Thus, in the first days of the year, official establishments were taken under the control of armed units, both in Riga and in Vilnius, while laws were flouted and there were infringements of the status of a people's deputy.

The use of internal forces against the will of bodies of authority elected by the people, and their actions when imposing the positions of a political minority, are in conflict with the principles of democracy, as well as with the demand presented by the world's public to solve the issue of restoring the Baltic states' independence without violence, through peaceful negotiations.

The Supreme Soviet Pesidium of the Republic of Estonia—in solidarity with the unshakable course of bodies of state authority in expressing the will of Latvian and Lithuanian peoples to be masters in their own land—expresses a resolute protest against interference by the USSR Army and internal forces in a Baltic states' civil issue. The presidium views this as an attempt to provoke a public conflict, which could serve to motivate the introduction of a state of emergency and the removal of legal state-authority bodies.

The Supreme Soviet Presidium of the Republic of Estonia is convinced that both Latvian and Lithuanian people will remain calm, and will avoid a situation whereby political events break free from the control of legal state authority.

The Supreme Soviet Presidium of the Republic of Estonia proposes that the USSR leadership take immediate steps to curb Army interference in the Baltic [word indistinct]

Estonia Asks Journalists To Help Latvians

LD0401155791 Tallinn Domestic Service in Estonian 1500 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] In connection with the tense situation in the Republic of Latvia, the board of the Estonian Journalism Workers Union appeals to all journalists to be ready to react to pleas for help from their Latvian colleagues.

A meeting of the board of the Estonian Journalism Workers Union today also envisaged the possibility that, at a request from the Latvians, some of their newspapers will have to be printed in Estonia. For this reason the board of the Estonian Journalism Workers Union requests that all editorial boards and printing plants be ready to lend prompt assistance to Latvian newspapers.

Estonia's Sillari Cited on Use of Army

LD0401112191 Tallinn Domestic Service in Estonian 0700 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] What is happening in and around the [Riga] press building in Latvia has motivated Peeter Raidla, of the RAHVA HAAL newspaper, to pay a brief visit to our White House [Communist Party of Estonia Central Committee building] in order to hear the opinions of the two Communist Party [CP] of Estonia leaders. Lembit Annus, first secretary of the pro-CPSU CP of Estonia Central Committee, promised to lend a kindly ear to the

journalist on Monday morning. The correspondent, however, gained access to talk to Enn-Arno Sillari, first secretary of the pro-Estonian CP of Estonia Central Committee.

Sillari assured him in an inteview that his party has no contact with the Annus party, with the exclusion of routine matters. Enn-Arno Sillari also said firmly that he has no intention to use assistance from the Army to protect party property.

Should Annus turn to the Army in order to occupy the press building, however, the pro-Estonian CP will seek a peaceful solution at any cost. Estonia is indeed the only Baltic country where the Black Berets have not as yet—even once—demonstrated their strength. It is necessary to avoid provocations now, too, at any cost.

We learn also from the interview that since the beginning of 1990 not a kopeck of the earnings of the CP of Estonia publishing house has been transferred to Moscow. Profits are most of all needed for furthering the publishing activity of the publishing house and to increase salaries for the staff.

Estonia's Ruutel Cited on Referendum, Gorbachev

PM0401114991 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Jan 91 Union Edition p 6

[Interview with Estonian Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruutel by Italian newspaper IL MESSAGGERO; place and date not given; unattributed "Press Focus" report—"IL MESSAGGERO on Estonia, the Soviet Union, and President Gorbachev"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Estonian Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruutel has stated among other things: We demand the signing of a protocol affirming Estonia's absolute political independence. If this matter is clarified our people will have no reason for anxiety any more and we will be able to open more constructive talks both at expert and summit level.

[Reporter] Why are you unwilling to hold a referendum, as Gorbachev proposes?

[Ruutel] We are not. Only we want to hold it not in the way that Gorbachev wants but in a different way. There was no referendum on the question of Estonia's incorporation in the Soviet Union. That fact should not be forgotten. As for the present situation, a referendum could be held for the sake of clarity. It is likely that we will hold one, but we have no plans at the moment.

[Reporter] You do not consider yourself a Soviet citizen, yet you supported the vote of confidence in President Gorbachev.

[Ruutel] I voted against a vote of no confidence in him. Presidents should not be treated in that way; they should be respected. Especially Mikhail Sergeyevich [Gorbachev], who has borne the entire burden of perestroyka on his shoulders. Even though not everything has worked out for him, nevertheless in a certain sense he has carried out the process of democratizing the USSR. That was a great achievement.

Finland's Holkeri Cited on Baltics Issues

LD0601124791 Moscow TASS in English 1240 GMT 6 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Arkady Prisyazhniy]

[Text] Helsinki January 6 TASS—"Finland's stand with regard to the Baltic republics remains unchanged. We are in favour of the solution of problems that have arisen between the Baltic republics and Moscow through negotiations," Finnish Prime Minister Harri Holkeri told the Finnish Telegraph Bureau in an interview about the results of Estonian Prime Minster Edgar Savisaar's visit to Finland. The interview was circulated today.

"During our meeting, I explained our point of view to Savisaar and said that Finland does not intend to make a new statement on the matter," Holkeri said.

Savisaar's visit ended late Saturday night.

Estonian Unions Demand Minimum Wage Increase

LD0401215891 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1440 GMT 4 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Albert Maloveryan]

[Summary] Tallinn, 4th Jan—Siym (Kallas), chairman of the central union of Estonian trade unions, said in a conversation with the TASS correspondent that if the government raises retail prices it should also concern itself with raising minimum wage.

Commenting on the results of talks between the government and trade unions, Kallas noted that their main aim was the creation of a mechanism for the social protection of the population and the prevention of a further sharp reduction in living standards. The government has accepted union demands in principle.

In Kallas's opinion, the talks are important as a precedent—on the basis of which a dialogue between unions and employers may be held in the near future.

Estonian Legislators Set Immigration Quota

LD0501095491 Moscow World Service in English 0800 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Estonia's parliament has passed a decision on an immigration quota for that Baltic republic. According to the document, Estonia will accept 2,290 people who wish to settle there for good.

Baltic Customs Officials Sign Protocol

LD0501092791 Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 0100 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] A two-day conference held in Vilnius by the heads of the Lithuanian, Latvian, and Estonian customs departments concluded today. During this conference the conclusion was reached that the three Baltic countries must subscribe to a common customs system in their eastern and western border protection and in the control of internal borders, that is, the Lithuanian-Latvian and the Latvian-Estonian borders.

The problems relating to passenger and transportation control, a declaration, and so on, will be resolved jointly.

In a protocol signed in Vilnius the customs officials of the three republics propose to change to an identical customs and border protection procedure.

The customs heads will present to their governments the documents prepared and signed at the conference.

Baltic Communist Party Leaders Meet in Riga

LD0401194291 Moscow TASS in English 1907 GMT 4 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Valeriy Zaitsev]

[Text] Riga January 4 TASS—Persecutions for political convictions, moral terror against dissidents and bans on professions have become a reality in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. This conclusion was drawn by participants in a session of the Council of Central Committee Secretaries of the Baltic Communist Parties, held here today.

Leaders of the Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian Communist Parties adopted a statement on anti-democratic acts and the violation of human rights in the Baltic republics. It says that most deputies to the supreme soviets (parliaments) and the governments created by them have taken to the path of restoring bourgeois ways and totalitarian pro-fascist regimes under the pressure of the popular fronts and Lithuanian Sajudis. In order to justify this anti-people policy in public opinion, an openly reactionary nationalistic ideology is being imposed, and the pseudo-scientific slogan "Rights of the nation are superior to human rights" is being put into practice.

According to the statement, a truly dangerous situation is being created for Communists and supporters of Soviet power with the connivance of law-enforcement agencies. Calls for armed violence and a civil war are getting louder, illegal paramilitary detachments and groups are being formed.

The Council of Central Committees Secretaries expressed protest against "antidemocratic acts and human rights violations in the baltic region, which lead to the escalation of tension in society, disastrous to all, demoralise people and make them fearful and insecure".

The council believes that "In this crisis situation in the Baltic republics the Soviet president and parliament should take all necessary measures for safeguarding constitutional rights and freedoms of Soviet citizens".

The session also adopted a resolution on joint actions of the Baltic Communist Parties for the implementation of resolutions of the Fourth Congress of USSR People's Deputies. Participants in the session deemed it expedient to begin practical actions, aimed at concluding a new Union treaty and creating proper conditions for the preparation and holding of a referendum on the problem of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, since the incumbent leaders of the republic oppose the signing of the new Union treaty.

Party Leaders Appeal to Gorbachev

LD0501182191

[Editorial Report] Moscow Central Television Vostok Program and Orbita Networks in Russian at 1530 GMT on 5 January, as part of the regularly scheduled "Vremya" newscast, carries a 3-minute report by correspondent N. Kasyanova on a Riga meeting—at an unspecified date—of the council of secretaries of the central committees of the Communist Parties of the Baltic republics.

Kasyanova begins by noting that "The leaders of the Communist Parties of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia exchanged information on the social and political situation in the republics, and on the situation in the Communist Parties. They discussed possibilities for joint action by the central committees of the Communist Parties to implement the decisions of the 4th Congress of USSR People's Deputies."

Next, A.P. Rubiks, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, and first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Latvia, says:

"We concluded that we have much in common, despite some unique features. One such common feature is that the government now in power in our Union republics is following a dual policy. One policy is the adoption of official laws which encroach upon human rights. The other policy is what the mass media says alleges that nothing has happened, nothing has occurred, that we are all living together harmoniously. This is not true. The mass media, including central television, are still providing too little information, too timidly, about events in the republics, in particular in our republic."

The next speaker is V.A. Lazutka, first secretary of the Vilnius city party committee, says:

"Essentially, we have a forbidden profession. As of 1 March, and all these violations of human rights which they do not like to talk about, I think that we Communists will tell the people honestly the truth, not just in our own republic, but in the country."

Another speaker, V.A. Lazutka, says:

"In our republic, ideological terror is especially noticeable, the encroachment upon human rights, the violation of human rights, within the bounds of a state of fear in society, and of fear when people are afraid to express an opinion which differs from the official one foisted by some figures of the supreme soviet, by a rather narrow circle of people. The objective state of affairs is such that the rise in prices, the worsening of the material situation, are causing a lack of confidence in these forces, in their ability to solve current problems. Hence, the political apathy which has arisen and which exists among the people. In discussing the problems facing us, facing our republics, we also want to reply to the question about how to resolve the real problems facing our society."

Kasyanov concludes that "participants in the meeting adopted a joint statement which, in particular, also contains the following appeal: the council of secretaries of the central committees of the Communist Parties of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia think that in the crisis situation created in the Baltic republics the USSR president and the USSR Supreme Soviet should take every measure to guarantee the constitutional rights and freedoms of Soviet citizens."

RSFSR

Yeltsin Comments on Enterprises, Shevardnadze

LD0501155491 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1254 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Remarks by Boris Yeltsin, chairman of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic (RSFSR) Supreme Soviet, to correspondent Shamil Kashaf at a news conference on 5 January; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Kashaf] The fact that 1991—the year in which market relations are being introduced in the RSFSR—is beginning with bitter skirmishing over the Russian budget is a telling factor, as far as our future is concerned. With the onset of the new year, sentiment is mixed among many industrialists now. Some are expecting their own imminent collapse, while others are more optimistic. I met speicalists from the Aleksandrovskiy radio works. They are ready to enter the market and earn a good living for themselves and the people around them. But, if the Russian parliament is today only battling for the budget—and this is, no doubt, a general matter which needs to be resolved—is not the Russian parliament forgetting a whole package of good laws relating to the market economy? So far, only individual laws have been adopted.

[Yeltsin] First, we are broadly speaking following the situation, and I tell you that, if only about 20 days ago we had just a little over half of contracts concluded among enterprises, the figure today is almost 80; in other words, it is approaching the optimum that had always existed for 5 January. Thus, enterprises have now effectively found each other or are seeking each other. As for the rest, a certain percentage—five percent—is usually left over anyway, and as far as the remaining 15 percent is concerned, it may take another 10 days for the contracts to be concluded. The only thing that remains is what has failed to be purchased through imports: the chemical industry and the question of light industry also remains, of course. Those are the two main areas, the two principal industries we have not yet managed to resolve.

We are trying to see that they are resolved. We are also trying to see that enterprises truly strive to be Russian, i.e. come under the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation. A process of this sort is under way. VAZ [Volga motor plant], Uralmash, and many other enterprises today want to work within the RSFSR. I was even in Yakutiya, for instance. Yakutalmaz is a very large enterprise, with nine big combines. They agree. So, we now just need to sign the relevant legal documents, and they agree to participate, i.e. to be in the RSFSR. There are many other enterprises. I think that, assuming that we hold out over the budget, not only will enterprises find it easier to work, but in 1991 we will notice—perhaps toward the end of the year—an improvement in people's living standards. It's because these are our possibilities. We will also be taking the same principled approach to hard currency, gold, precious metals, and other items.

[Kashaf] Has the situation been made more difficult now by the resignation of Fedorov, the Russian finance minister?

[Yeltsin] It certainly has. These things happen. Shevardnadze also resigned, and that also undoubtedly did not ease the situation. But, the fact is that he did leave. Since we're on the subject, I, for one, do not think he was justified despite all the objective factors he mentioned: the circumstances, the difficulties, and the possibility of dictatorship, and so on, and the criticism. What about Yeltsin, who has had to put up with so much criticism? Even now when I'm criticized, I regard it as a matter of course. The president is subject to a lot of criticism, too. As far as other aspects are concerned, it seems to me that not everything has come to light yet on this. But, whatever the case, if you consider that this has got world public opinion worried about whether our foreign policy is going to change, he should not have done this.

Radio Coverage Criticized

LD0601145591 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1141 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] [Announcer] I would just like to make this observation or clarification. Since we came on the air today, there have been a number of calls of this sort: 'You may be Russia's Radio, but you in no way differ from all-Union radio. Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin held a news conference yesterday, but today you have been beginning your bulletins with what is going on in Somalia and other countries, and have said nothing about what is going on in Russia. Yeltsin made a speech, but you are saying nothing about it.'

Well, I would just like to say something about this on the air, though I have already said this to listeners on the telephone. Yes, Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin did speak at a press conference yesterday. Throughout the day, in all our bulletins, we covered it in various forms, with various fragments and Yeltsin's entire speech at the press conference and his replies to questions from Shamil Kashafa, our correspondent for Russia's Radio. Therefore, this speech was covered very fully. And even all-Union radio broadcast fragments from the press conference at 1900 on its first program. I just want to tell our listeners that, yes, this is a truly important event, an interesting and topical event. Every speech by Yeltsin merits attention. But to broadcast each day what happened the day before is simply unprofessional, and in my opinion even reflects badly on Boris Nikolayevich.

So, those were yesterday's events, and we covered them quite fully and vividly yesterday. Thus, the way I see it, our listeners are not quite right. But I do agree that Boris Nikolayevich and Ivan Stepanovich Silayev should probably appear more frequently on our broadcasts. We accept that reproach, and hope this will indeed be the case.

Yeltsin: Russian Sovereignty Main 1990 Achievement

LD0401201991 Moscow World Service in English 1600 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] Boris Yeltsin has said that the re-emergence of Russia as a sovereign state was one of the main achievements of last year. Interviewed by the youth weekly SOBESEDNIK, the leader of the Russian parliament also emphasized the importance of economic and other laws passed by the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation.

Yeltsin To Discuss Trade Ties in South Korea

LD0401141691 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1253 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] The head of the Russian legislature, Boris Yeltsin, will visit Seoul in late February or early March of this year.

In an interview with REUTER, a South Korean legislature spokesman announced that the Russian leader will discuss in Seoul the possibility of improving direct trade relations between South Korea and the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic, the biggest republic of the Soviet Union.

Siberian Independence Program Proclaimed

LD0601192591 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 6 Jan 90

[Text] A program of Siberian independence has been proclaimed. This has been reported by SIBINFORM agency. The program envisions the creation of a sovereign Siberian state by means of unification of the existing Siberian krays and oblasts for the defense of common political and economic interests. The establishment of the institution of Siberian citizenship and alteration of the existing administrative division of Siberia and formation of new regions are envisioned. The inhabitants of Siberian lands will have the right to elect any form of rule for themselves. Trade between Siberia and other countries is planned to be conducted only in foreign currency. The funds obtained should go to the creation of Siberia's own convertible currency.

RSFSR Congress To Meet at End of March

LD0401210991 Moscow World Service in English 2000 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] The Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation has announced that the third republican Congress of People's Deputies will take place at the end of March and the beginning of April this year. The reorganization of state power in the republic, including the introduction of the presidency, will be the main issue on the agenda. The congress will also discuss a new republican constitution. Two drafts of the fundamental law of the republic were published for general discussion earlier. The republican supreme soviet believes that before a new republican constitution is promulgated there must be a referendum.

RSFSR Meeting Discusses Constitution

LD0301213191 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1736 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Text] A working sitting of members of the republican constitutional commission and its experts took place at the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation. Over to our commentator Aleksandr Ruvinskiy:

[Ruvinskiy] The main aim of this sitting was to reach an agreement. After all, it is known that there are lot of opinions on the issue of Russia's future constitution. There are alternative drafts. Opening this sitting, Khasbulatov, first deputy chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet, noted that the process of radicalization of public thinking is swiftly unfolding now. People want changes. In these conditions there should be a draft which will not rapidly become outdated. Apart from that, it is necessary to prepare a number of documents concerning presidential elections. All the work on these documents would be completely open to the public. And now, at this stage, it is important to carry out explanatory work. People's deputies and specialists should speak to the people and comment on the main guidelines of the proposed drafts.

I ought to say that I witnessed essential rapprochement between the positions of the left and right halves of the hall here at the sitting. As many speakers stressed, they are confident that accord will be reached even before a referendum on this issue is held, before the next congress. However, some people's deputies, members of the commission, are categorically against a referendum on the constitutional issue. For example, Deputy Slobodkin, one of the leaders of the Russian communist parliamentary bloc, thinks that a referendum can only lead to

the adoption of conservative and reactionary decisions, that its participants will not be able to get to the core of the issue, and that only the congress can do that for them. So there are quite a few issues ahead which the groups of deputies have to agree on. However, the main thing is that the work is under way, and that it should be completed as soon as possible.

The results of the competition for drafting a new constitution were also announced here. Thirty-nine drafts were submitted. It was decided not to award the first prize to anyone. A group of lawyers from the Saratov State University, working under the leadership of Professor (Kadyshev), will receive the second prize.

One more thing. I was asked in the republic's Supreme Soviet to make something clear. A meeting between the leadership of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic and Uzbekistan and the signing of treaties between them have not been planned for today. Such information, presented by some sources, was wrong.

Leningrad Funds Used To Protect Sobchak

LD0501100591 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0925 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Acording to a report from the POSTFAKTUM news agency, the KGB directorate for Leningrad City and Oblast has up-to-date information on a threat to the life of Anatoliy Sobchak, the chairman of Leningrad City Soviet, about which he has informed the Leningrad City Soviet's Commission on Legality and Maintaining Law and Order. In this regard, the commission requested the Soviet Presidium to petition the USSR Committee of State Security to organize personal protection for the chairman of the Leningrad City Soviet by state security forces. In view of the KGB directorate, a sum of R60,000 annually should be allocated from the city's budget.

After discussing this question, the Presidium of the Leningrad City Soviet decided to organize Sobchak's protection by KGB forces and to hold preliminary talks on the size and nature of payment. It is proposed to redistribute money from the city budget which is allocated for protecting government residents within Leningrad's territory. Some of the money will be used to protect the chairman of the Leningrad City Soviet.

Christmas Celebrations Held in Leningrad

LD0701134391 Moscow TASS in English 1233 GMT 7 Jan 91

[By unidentified TASS correspondent]

[Text] Leningrad January 7 TASS—Christmas services were held in all the 36 functioning churches of Leningrad this morning, with Christmas trees illuminated with lighted candles.

It is for the first time since 1917 that Christmas is marked not only as a religious holiday but also as a state one in Russia.

A mass printing of the Bible has been timed for the Christmas holiday. A batch of Bible copies has been turned over to the charity fund of the international telethon "Renaissance" now in progress here.

The opening of the telethon was attended by Metropolitan Ioann of Leningrad and Ladoga who called on all believers and non-believers to revive the spirit of benevolence and love for people, and to pray for peace and good.

Metropolitan Ioann held Christmas liturgy at St. Isaac's Cathedral at night. It was for the second time that a Christian sermon was delivered at the cathedral. This was first done during the celebration of the millennium of Christianity in Russia.

On subsequent days, the Christmas holiday will splash out into the streets in revival of the tradition to combine mumming, carol singing and popular merry-making.

Defense Ministry Transfers Church to Omsk Council

LD0601182191 Moscow TASS in English 1640 GMT 6 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Anatoliy Petrov]

[Text] Omsk January 6 TASS—On the eve of Christmas, observed by the Russian Orthodox believers on January 7, Soviet Defence Minister Dmitriy Yazov issued an order to the commander of the Siberian Military District to transfer the building of the former Hospital Church to the Omsk City Council which will further transfer it to the Russian Orthodox Church.

"The church in question was often visited and later described by Fedor Dostoyevskiy," Archbishop Theodosius of Omsk and Tarsk told TASS.

The building has been well preserved. The first divine service is scheduled for August 5, one of the Russian Orthodox holidays. The church will retain its mission as a Hospital Church.

Coupons for Staples To Be Introduced in Moscow

LD0301221191 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Text] There is no need for cards in Moscow at the present time. However, coupons for basic necessity foodstuffs are soon to be introduced. This is the conclusion of the working group set up to carry out a detailed study of this issue. It actually formulates the essence of the decision adopted today by the Moscow Soviet Presidium.

In light of the worsening situation in the consumer market, the Moscow City Executive committee has been instructed to develop, by 1 February, a coupon system of supplying the population with goods of this group on the basis of set state prices. A system of Moscow checks will be introduced, giving people the right to purchase basic

foodstuffs and manufactured goods. The preparation for this step with regard to the rationing of foodstuffs is planned to be concluded by 1 April.

Finally, a transition should be introduced by 1 August to the economic regulation of the consumer market, including the creation of a basis for the indexation of prices and incomes and compensation payments to these groups of the population which are not participants of market relations.

The same decision requires that the Moscow City Executive Committee, together with the interested commissions of deputies, should in the first quarter give all shops, on a voluntary basis, a legal status by opening business accounts at banks, as well as helping to set up associations, unions, and partnerships.

The session of the Soviet, which is to continue its work on 8 January, will show whether the deputy corps agrees with the decisions of the Moscow Soviet Presidium.

Food Rationing Introduced in Arkhangelsk

LD0401181991 Moscow Maritime Service in Russian 1300 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] The PRAVDA SEVERA [TRUTH OF THE NORTH] newspaper has published a decision of the Arkhangelsk Oblast Soviet of People's Deputies on the system for the distribution on and rationing of main foodstuffs in the oblast for 1991. Inter alia, the decision states: to introduce rationing for meat, dairy produce, butter, oil, margarine, animal fats, flour, groats, pasta, sugar, tea, egg products, wines and spirits, and to prohibit the export of foodstuffs from the oblast.

Omsk Acts To Stop Food Transport

LD0601154191 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] A decision has been taken in Omsk to undertake preventive measures to stop foodstuffs being transported from the region. To ensure this, checkpoints will be set up on the outskirts of the town and on routes leading beyond the borders of Omsk Oblast. These checkpoints will have the right to confiscate stock-farming and crop-growing produce, primarily meat and poultry. Everything confiscated is to be handed over to the state trade system and to the consumers' cooperatives, with payment made according to procurement and retail prices.

Chita Disturbances Over Vodka Supply Detailed

LD0601184691 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1530 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Interview with A.A. Shelopugin, director of Chita Liqueur and Vodka Works, and Ye. G. Tsyngeyev, chairman of Chita City Soviet, by correspondent A. Bardo; place and date not given; from the "Vremya" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] On 30 December TASS reported disturbances in Chita connected with the lack of alcoholic drinks. Our correspondents have clarified the details of the incident.

[Bardo] What happened was bound to happen sooner or later. Throughout December, no vodka, let alone wine and champagne, were sold in Chita. Only one day before the New Year, seven of the 52 specialty shops began selling alcohol. Understandably, the coveted drink was obtained by the more high-handed and the stronger. The militia sent almost all its permanent staff into the lines. Let me note, incidentally, that according to Internal Affairs Department reports, five murders took place on the streets which had no patrols on them that day.

The vodka ran out quickly and then the infuriated crowd took to the city's main street, closing it off. Bonfires blazed up near shops. But as it turned out, people were asking the impossible of the authorities. The Chita Liqueur and Vodka Works, the only one in the oblast, had delivered 320,000 bottles of vodka to the shops, over and above all stocks and limits, which ran out back at the beginning of last autumn: almost one bottle for each inhabitant of Chita. Yet even this was not enough. Can the works increase the production of alcoholic drinks, however?

[Shelopugin] Yes, we can increase the quantity of alcoholic drinks produced on the condition that such a decision is made and is backed up by material resources.

[Bardo] Deputies discuss the situation almost daily and are outlining measures to avoid such incidents in the future.

[Ye.G. Tsyngeyev, chairman of the city soviet] Unfortunately, we cannot fully solve this problem here. It is a matter of the productivity of our vodka-producing enterprises which is restricted at present—one vodka works has been closed down. Now, however, we will probably decide to put into operation a second alcohol-bottling line at the Chita works. We will deal with this matter temporarily.

[Bardo] On 30 December, the Liqueur and Vodka Works were idle due to a lack of bottles. They were rescued by seven containers of bottles which arrived by rail. On this occasion the conflict was defused, but after all, there are more festivities ahead. Will the city's authorities be able to take possession of economic levers and guarantee a stable situation?

Moscow Town Workers Control Committee Established

LD0401211191 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] A town workers' control committee has been set up which inlcudes representatives of rayon workers' control committees, a union of workers' deputies, and the Moscow Council of War and Labor Veterans. They will work in a single coordinating council under the

Mossovet in close cooperation with law-enforcement bodies, departmental control bodies, and various public movements. Representatives of Moscow labor collectives, who assembled at the scientific and technical center of (?AZLK), see the task of workers' control not in political games but in the real struggle for social justice.

RSFSR Union Leader Outlines Demands

PM0401112191 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 4 Jan 91 First Edition p 2

[Report by unidentified TASS correspondent on interview with USSR People's Deputy V. Romanov, deputy chairman of the Federation of Independent Russian Trade Unions; date and place not given: "Lots of Promises, No Improvements. Is an All-Russian Strike Inevitable?"]

[Text] Russian trade unions have proclaimed the start of 1991 to be a period of resolute struggle for the adoption of laws ensuring the protection of working people during the transition to the market. The time of unthinking and, as it transpired, unwarranted trust in parliamentary and government promises is past, USSR People's Deputy V. Romanov, deputy chairman of the Federation of Independent Russian Trade Unions (FIRTU), told the TASS correspondent.

We demand, the trade union leader declared, that the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet adopt before the end of February urgent legal acts such as laws on employment and on the indexation of the population's income to take into account changes in the prices of consumer goods and services and that these be implemented as of 1 March. Any further delay is fraught with serious negative consequences for the people, especially socially vulnerable strata. The FIRTU Council calls on trade union primary organizations and directly on the republic's citizens—workers, peasants, and representatives of the intelligentsia—to hold rallies and meetings without delay and to express their attitude toward the legislators' delay in adopting vitally important laws. I am sure that the opinion of the overwhelming majority of working people and their trade unions will be unequivocal. If it is ignored the FIRTU Council reserves the right to organize an all-Russian strike—maybe not merely a warning strike.

There will probably be some who wish to call us extremists, V. Romanov continued, and to ask whether it is proper for trade unions to "incite" people to collective action when the country's authorities, on the contrary, are calling on the population to achieve civil harmony. In this connection it is appropriate to recall that throughout the last eight (!) months FIRTU has tried to resolve the acute socioeconomic problems associated with the switch to the market precisely by civilized means—by holding various conferences, meetings, and talks, including at a high level. However, this has not produced tangible results. While the Russian parliament and government have nevertheless taken some practical steps to meet us halfway, at the union level matters have been confined to verbal blather and vague promises by legislators to implement a "package of urgent measures in the social sphere" some time in the foreseeable future. But is it not time to stop feeding people promises that they are sick and tired of but to elaborate at long last specific and clear mechanisms for the legal and social protection of the population, which is awaiting with concern the surprises that the market economy will bring?

The FIRTU Council categorically protests the proposals for the introduction of a moratorium on strikes in all sectors of the national economy that were voiced at the Fourth Congress of USSR People's Deputies, V. Romanov noted. This is nothing but an attempt by entrepreneurs, supported by certain legislators, to infringe trade unions' rights and make them unable to consistently defend working people's interests.

FIRTU intends to demonstrate its readiness for an uncompromising struggle to satisfy working people's socioeconomic demands during the spring trade union united action days, which will be held 1-2 May. Preparations for this mass action have already begun.

Trade Unions, Council of Ministers Confer

LD0401210591 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1530 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] Mutual obligations for solving urgent socioeconomic issues are stipulated by the draft accord between the Russian Federation of Independent Trade Unions and the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Council of Ministers for this year. The document should be signed no later than this February by mutual agreement. This was reported by Romanov, deputy chairman of the federation, at a press conference in Moscow today. The draft document envisages the formation of the material and information bases for a state employment service in the republic and for paying benefits during 12 months to those who will lose jobs through no fault of their own, as early as this year's first quarter.

Trade Union Council Criticizes Government Delay

LD0501202891 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] The Altay Kray Trade Union Council today published a message to the kray's trade union organizations. It supports a decision of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia that calls for January meetings and rallies to express a negative attitude toward the delay by the leadership of the country and of Russia to adopt laws on the social protection of the population.

I remind you that this refers to the laws on the indexation of income, on employment, and on the socio-economic protection of workers in science, education and public health.

Among the demands are the following: to publish, by February at the latest, a list of goods the prices of which must be controlled by the state.

Bratsk Declared 'Ecological Disaster Zone'

LD0401124291 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1000 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] A group of deputies of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet committee for issues of ecology and rational use of resources has been working in Bratsk for three days. The deputies studied the situation at major enterprises in Bratsk, at the timber industry complex and the aluminum works, and had meetings with the public and local authorities.

As a result, about 50 measures have been planned to help Bratsk improve its ecology, including declaring the city an ecological disaster zone, and the modernization and retool for new production [pereprofilirovaniye] of a number of enterprises. Bratsk residents were also presented with the USSR Council of Ministers' decision on the transfer of the Bratsk timber industry complex from Union control to Russian.

Western Republics

Moldovan President on Gorbachev Decree

LD0401193391 Moscow TASS in English 1908 GMT 4 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Fedor Angeli]

[Text] Kishinev January 4 TASS—"The Moldavian parliament will fulfil the Soviet president's decree on measures to normalise the situation in the Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic," Moldavian President Aleksandru Moshanu said at a news conference here today.

He said the Moldavian parliament Presidium would elaborate specific measures to implement all of the decree's provisions before the republican parliament resumes session on January 16.

Special commissions will be set up to put these measures into effect. Moshanu expressed hope that the provisions of the Soviet presidential decree would be fulfilled by all parties concerned.

Organisers of the news conference said the most important points in the decree were recognising the formation of the Dnestr and Gagauz republics as unlawful, preserving Moldavia's integrity and sovereignty and ensuring the rights and freedoms of all citizens of the republic, irrespective of their nationality.

They stated that the Moldavian Supreme Soviet acted against a backdrop of the escalation of ethnic conflicts and was forced to make decisions under the pressure of conditions that had formed in the republic.

At the same time, Anatoliy Plugaru, member of the republican parliament presidium, alleged at the news conference that the centre was not interested in the real sovereignty for members of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Moldavia could become the first republic with the presidential rule.

"Those forces in the centre that support the separatist Dnestr and Gagauz republics should know that their actions are objectively pushing Moldavia out of the USSR and prodding it to join Romania," Plugaru said.

Moldovan Meeting Discusses Gorbachev Decree

LD0501161891 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1310 GMT 5 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Fedor Angeli]

[Text] Beltsy (Moldova SSR), 5 Jan (TASS)—It is vitally important for Moldova to join the renewed union, and the observance of all statutes of the USSR president's decree "On measures to normalize the situation in the Moldova SSR" is the first step toward the establishment of peace among citizens of the republic. This was said at a meeting today of the aktiv of the Communist Party and labor collectives of this Moldova town, the third largest in population and economic potential.

Participants in the meeting sent an open letter to Mikhail Gorbachev in which they backed up decisions of the Fourth Congress of USSR People's Deputies and the USSR president's decree normalizing the situation in Moldova. In order to ensure that statutes of the decree "do not turn into just good intentions you should reveal firmness, adherence to principles and decisiveness while implementing steadfastly a program which will unite people and bring calm to them," the address says.

Moldovan Letter to Gorbachev Supports Decree

LD0601085391 Moscow TASS in English 0749 GMT 6 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Fedor Angeli]

[Text] Beltsky, Moldavia, January 6 TASS—Speakers at a meeting of Communist Party activists and representatives of the work collectives in Beltsy, Moldavia's third largest city, said on Saturday that entry into a renewed union was of vital necessity for Moldavia and that the implementation of all the provisions of the Soviet president's decree on measures to normalise the situation in Moldavia would be the first step toward the establishment of civil peace in the republic.

Participants in the meeting sent an open letter to Mikhail Gorbachev, supporting the decisions of the Fourth Congress of USSR People's Deputies and the presidential decree aimed at normalising the situation in Moldavia.

To prevent the provisions of the decree "from turning into only good intentions, you should show firmness, adherence to principle and resoluteness in the steadfast implementation of the programme of work for people's unity and tranquility," the letter said.

Moldova Communist Party Holds Plenum

LD0501042191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1722 GMT 4 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Fedor Angeli]

[Text] Kishinev, 4 Jan (TASS)—A plenum of the Communist Party of Moldova Central Committee took place today and considered issues "on the course of preparations for the republican party conference" and "on the political position of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Moldova."

In a report and in addresses by I. Gutsu, the second secretary of the Communist Party of Moldova Central Committee it was noted that the sociopolitical situation in the republic continues to remain complex. Relations between the Communist Party of Moldova and other sociopolitical movements have taken on an ambiguous character. The striving toward a constructive and honest dialogue was mistakenly interpreted as a weakness of a party which had lost its way and was not in a condition to renew itself or to conduct a political battle. Having moved over to the zone of power, the leaders of the Moldovan Popular Front are presenting themselves as "fathers of the nation," the sole controllers of the destinies of the people and the saviors of the fatherland. The extreme right-wing ideas of anti-communism, "the cleansing of the republic from the ideas of socialism," have come to the fore in their political views.

At the plenum it was stressed that the republic's national economy was on the verge of breakdown and that intereconomic integratory links had been destroyed. Legal nihilism, crime, and inflation are growing, discipline is falling, and the shadow economy is flourishing. People are alarmed and indignant about the outbreak of speculation and the encroachment on property. Political instability is making it difficult to carry out market economic reforms. Lack of confidence in the authorities and in the future is being felt among the people.

It was noted that in a number of acts adopted by the Moldovan Soviet Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet the civil rights of the population of non-Moldovan nationality had been encroached upon. This had engendered spearatist tendencies in the Dnestr region and in the south of the republic.

The plenum of the Communist Party of Moldova Central Committee adopted the appropriate decisions.

Moldova Leader Views Economic Problems

LD0601122891 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1138 GMT 6 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Fedor Angeli]

[Text] Kishinev, 6 January (TASS)—At yesterday's sitting of the Presidential Council of the Moldova Soviet Socialist Republic, Mircha Snegur, president of the republic, stated that the national economic situation remains extremely unsatisfactory. He noted that, in principle, the conclusion of contracts with the Union republics along lateral lines has been completed. The Moldavian leader also stressed that negotiations with foreign companies have not yielded proper results.

Mircha Snegur informed members of the Presidential Council that leaders of the Union republics have recently signed economic contracts and contracts for foodstuffs for 1991.

In his words, the execution of each side's obligations in accordance with this document, will allow economic stabilization. However, rigid observance of industrial, contractual, and executive discipline by all labor collectives and republican leaders at all levels is needed for this.

Caucasus

Ter-Petrosyan Expresses Support for NKAO

NC0501133591 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 4 Jan 91

["Greetings From Levon Ter-Petrosyan to the people of Artsakh"—ARMENPRES headline]

[Text] Yerevan, 4 Jan (ARMENPRES)—Dear people of Artsakh [Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast—NKAO]: I am pleased to have the opportunity to greet you on the new year in the pages of KHORHRDAYIN KARABAKH.

At this perturbing moment of your trial it is of course difficult to find words to express the spiritual agitation and mental distress gripping the Armenian people.

Nevertheless, I am convinced that no injustice and no deceit will make your heroic souls panic and that the indomitable spirit of your forefathers will not abandon you.

You were the forerunners of the new Armenian national awakening, and now it is the duty of our entire nation to gratefully repay the privations you suffered and to support your superhuman heroic act. In their turn, the authorities of Armenia are under the obligation to be the guarantors of your security and well-being by their search for a just political solution to the Artsakh problem based on the unshakable principle of peoples' self-determination.

Respectfully, Levon Ter-Petrosyan

Azerbaijan Commission Discusses Food Distribution

LD0501093291 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0700 GMT 05 Jan 91

[Text] The special commission for supplying the republic's population with food and manufactured goods decided at a meeting to eliminate in 24 hours public catering cooperatives and to establish order in the activities of numerous commission and commercial shops in Baku and rayons in Azerbaijan. Those attending analyzed the reasons for the unsatisfactory work and inactivity of the producer-consumer conveyor belt. The attention of the leaders of a number of ministries, departments, agro-industrial associations, and town and rayon executive committees was drawn to the unsatisfactory supply of the republic's population.

On the instructions of the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic president, the special commision is devising all-year subscription booklets, and a system for distributing particularly scarce food and manufactured goods, which will come into operation in Baku and Sumgait and then throughout the republic.

Center of South Ossetia Under 'Economic Blockade'

LD0401162191 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1253 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] Tskhinvali, the center of South Ossetia, is essentially under an economic blockade. Goods are not reaching it by motorways and railway via Georgia. In the same way, locally produced output is not being dispatched from South Ossetia Oblast.

Situation 'Remains Tense'

LD0401125591 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1023 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow, 4 Jan (TASS)—A TASS correspondent reports that the siutation in South Ossetia .\utonomous Oblast (Trans-Caucasus) remains tense, citing the press center of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs. In connection with continuation of the economic blockade, consumer goods coming via the republic of Georgia are not reaching the autonomous oblast. The fact that the goods, produced by the industrial enterprises of the oblast, are not being unloaded is also aggravating the situation.

In the course of the last 24 hours, five people have been arrested for violation of the curfew.

On 2 January in the evening, unknown persons fired automatic guns at the hostel of the knitted goods factory in the town of Tshkinvali. Fortunately, there were no casualties. The law enforcement bodies are searching for the criminals.

Georgia Plans Price Hikes, Taxes

LD0401174391 Moscow TASS in English 1658 GMT 4 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi January 4 TASS—Deputies to the Georgian parliament found themselves in a difficult situation during the 1991 budget discussions. The enormous deficit—more than one billion roubles—will require legislators to adopt price increases.

"This measure will cover all the main foodstuffs, received by Georgia from the centre," Tengiz Gelantiya, chairman of the permanent financial-budget commission at the republican parliament, told TASS today. He recalled that the federal government had suggested as early as last May that prices of meat and dairy products, bread and other foodstuffs should be increased. "If the prices are raised on the Union level, we shall have to respond immediately," Gelantiya said.

Georgia imports almost all its grain, three quarters of its milk and about half of its meat. This is why, he continued, the republican budget "will no longer sustain the practice of subsidies to make up the difference between purchasing and retail prices, since the centre has shifted most financial problems to the republics".

According to Gelantiya, "a mechanism of compensation for the growth of prices has been envisaged".

Gelantiya said that an ambitious programme of the privatisation of enterprises and the selling of communal dwellings to the population is being worked out.

Georgia intends to introduce a transit tax on the transportation of passengers and cargoes across the republican territory, a special tax for health resort zones and a number of other taxes within the framework of the improvement of the tax system.

"The stabilisation of the situation envisages cooperation, equitable and mutually advantageous exchanges with other republics. This is why the Georgian parliament assigned republican ministries, enterprises and institutions to step up their work for maintaining and strengthening production ties," Gelantiya pointed out.

Georgian Foreign Minister on Citizenship Law

LD0401215391 Moscow TASS in English 2134 GMT 4 Jan 91

[By TASS special correspondent Igor Gvritishvili]

[Text] Tbilisi January 5 TASS—Georgian Foreign Minister Georgiy Khoshtariya expressed hope that the Georgian people would vote for full political independence for Georgia at a referendum on this issue.

But he said in a TASS interview that such a referendum could be held only after the Georgian parliament discussed and adopted a bill on citizenship, the draft of which was almost complete.

Dwelling on the bill's basic provisions, Khoshtariya noted that, under the document, only those residents of the republic, whose ancestors were born or lived on the republic's territory before 1921, i.e. prior to the abolition of its statehood, can become citizens of Georgia.

Asked if this bill on citizenship infringes the rights of those who settled in Georgia after 1921, Khoshtariya answered that in the opinion of representatives of the ruling round-table bloc, "After Georgia lost its independence, the artificial resettlement of people from other parts of the country began, which was not in citizens' economic and cultural interests."

Therefore, the issue of their citizenship, he said, "will be considered in each case separately and stricter [as received]. The knowledge of the Georgian language, the republic's constitution and the recognition of the inviolability of its borders will be important here."

Touching on the future of autonomous entities on Georgian territory, Khoshtariya said that the question of the future of the Adzhar Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic should be decided by the Adzhars themselves by a referendum, which is planned to be held shortly.

He said the republican leadership did not intend to make any changes in the status of the Abkhazian Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic.

As for South Ossetia, Khoshtariya reiterated that the republican parliament's earlier decision to end its autonomy remained unchanged. He put the blame for tension in the region squarely on "the destructive forces in South Ossetia", which "proclaimed the area a Union republic in circumvention of the constitution, jeopardising Georgia's territorial integrity".

In conclusion, Khoshtariya argued that the situation in South Ossetia should stabilise as a result of the municipal elections scheduled for March 1991, although, he said, "at least a year will be needed to normalise completely life in the region".